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PRC, Burmese Membership in Mekong Group 'Vital'

BK2811013190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 p A2

[By Kulachada Chaipiphat]

[Text] Vietnam has been chosen by the Mekong Interim Committee as its "mediator" to invite China and Burma to join the United Nations-sponsored regional development programme, a senior Vietnamese official said yesterday.

The decision was reached during informal consultations among members of the the Mekong committee, which will convene its 32nd session meeting today in Bangkok. The interim committee comprises Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, which share the lower Mekong basin.

Vietnamese Vice Water Conservation Minister Dinh Gia Khanh told a press conference at the Vietnamese embassy in Bangkok yesterday that China and Burma could join the development programmes as either a member or at a "technical" level.

Gia Canh said the two countries participation was vital in order to develop and effectively protect the resources and environmental system of the whole river. China and Burma straddle the upper Mekong. He added that current positive developments in the region toward peaceful cooperation made the two countries' participation in the programme appropriate.

Mekong committee Secretary General Chuck Lankester said China had indicated that it was willing to join the development programme, but Burma has yet to settle its internal problems before considering joining. Lankester said last week the committee urgently needed the cooperation of China on technical information, including water levels and current of the upper stream.

China had reportedly told Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan that it was keen to join the committee at the level of information exchange. Subin visited China early this month.

ASEAN Defense Link Said To Need More Time

HK1911052690 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Nov 90 p 8

[By staff member Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Text] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) needs more time to establish formal cooperation among its members for the region's defense, an Indonesian political scientist said.

"The possibility of transforming this 'web of bilateral defense relations' into a multilateral framework for cooperation will need time," said Dr. Yusuf Wanandi, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, in the recently-concluded Pacific Region Defense Exposition (Pride).

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus himself said that there were no "formal" agreements between ASEAN members to form a defense framework.

Wanandi said that before such relations could be formed, the countries should have an agreed perception of what a threat is, and a single defintion for the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan) concept.

Conflicts among the member-countries, such as the Malaysian-Philippines conflict over Sabah, should be resolved.

ASEAN's relationship with the superpowers should also be assessed, Wanandi said. "A formal ASEAN cooperation in defense cannot come about overnight. As a prerequisite, ASEAN needs to resolve many of the prevailing problems between its members, which thus far are simply swept under the carpet," he said.

Wanandi said that the ASEAN now looks at various scenarios, and cited the U.S. military facilities in the Philippines. "The political significance of the bases is perhaps of greatest importance to Southeast Asian countries, as they symbolize the presence of the U.S. in the region, which in turn provides some deterrence to intervention by other outside powers," Wanandi said. He believes that the military bases here help maintain security and stability in the region.

"The immediate issue facing ASEAN and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region today is how to prevent a withdrawal of the U.S. from the region in order that a balanced presence of the major powers could be maintained," Wanandi said. He added that ASEAN should also review the possibility of forming defense relations with Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, and invite countries outside ASEAN to participate in a treaty for peace and cooperation.

Japan

Government To Give Medical Aid to Soviet Union

OW2811152290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—The Japanese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday decided in principle to provide the Soviet Union with emergency medical assistance worth "hundreds of million yen" to help overcome its acute shortages of food and medicine as winter approaches.

Foreign Ministry officials said the Soviet Union has already informally asked the Japanese Government for emergency assistance. They said the decision on the medical assistance will be conveyed to the Soviet Government when Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama visits the country in January. The officials said that the Japanese Government has decided to consider responding to the Soviet request mainly for medical supplies.

The Soviet Union does not seem to be suffering from food shortages so much as has been reported, as it enjoyed a bumper crop for wheat this year, they said. In addition, the Soviet Union is not an overseas development assistance recipient, so it is difficult for Japan to offer costly food aid, the officials said. The Foreign Ministry decided to offer medical help for humanitarian reasons, they said.

The officials said that the medical supplies to be sent to the [words indistinct] the range of "hundreds of million yen" and added that the money will be paid from the national budget for the current fiscal year.

The government has already earmarked 2.6 billion yen in the fiscal 1990 budget for emergency medical aid to the Soviet Union to cope with damage from the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Information Exchanged With Soviet Nuclear Experts

OW2811133290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Mutsu, Aomori Pref., Nov. 28 KYODO—Nuclear experts from Japan and the Soviet Union exchanged information on nuclear-powered ships to promote technology exchanges at a seminar held here Wednesday.

Nine Soviet experts, including Boris Papkovskiy, vice chairman of the State Committee for Supervising the Safe Conduct of Work in the Nuclear Power Industry, and some 20 Japanese experts from the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute took part in the seminar.

Japanese experts explained the sailing test of the 8,242-ton Mutsu, Japan's only nuclear-powered ship, which docks in Sekinehama in Mutsu. Papkovskiy praised the steady equipment in the Mutsu and said that Soviet's nuclear-powered ship technology lags. The Soviet experts visited the Mutsu prior to the seminar.

Countries which possess nonmilitary nuclear-powered ships are Japan and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union holds six nuclear-powered icebreakers and one nuclear-powered freighter, according to the institute.

The Mutsu commenced sea trials this year for the first time since its completion 20 years ago. The vessel was put out of operation 16 years ago due to radiation leakage.

Talks Held With N. Korea on Ties Normalization

HK2811110890 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 18 Nov 90 p 6

[Report by Xu Baokang (1776 1405 1660): "Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan Hold Second Preparatory Meeting on Normalization of Relations"]

[Text] Beijing, 17 Nov (XINHUA)—The second preparatory meeting on normalization of relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan was held in Beijing today. Both sides seriously discussed the problems of topics, date, venue, and delegation members for the formal talks on the establishment of relations between the DPRK and Japan, and reached some agreement. The meeting proceeded smoothly, and both sides agreed to hold the third preparatory meeting in mid-December in Beijing.

Chong Chun-ki [2612 6518 2817], head of the DPRK delegation, said at a news conference after the meeting: "The talks were very fruitful," both sides were serious, the atmosphere was good, we have enhanced friendship and understanding, and both sides have reached agreements on many problems. But he declined to disclose any concrete contents of the agreements. He said the contents were decided by both sides. He said the improvement of relations between the DPRK and Japan has always been the wish of the DPRK Government, and that this is not only in accordance with the interest of the DPRK people and the Japanese people but is also helpful to the stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region, thus the world also shows concern.

Judging from the situation of the meeting, the next meeting is full of promise, said Chong, who hoped relations between the DPRK and Japan can be normalized as soon as possible to contribute to peace in Asia.

Judge Allows 'Forced Fingerprinting' of Foreigners

OW2911113490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Kawasaki, Kanagawa Pref., Nov. 29 KYODO—The Kawasaki branch of the Yokohama District Court rejected a suit by a Korean fingerprint refuser Thursday seeking 1 million yen from the state and the Kanagawa Prefectural Government in compensation for being forced to register his fingerprints.

Presiding Judge Hisashi Nemoto turned down a suit by Pak Tae-ui, a 30-year-old designer, who claimed his arrest for having refused to be fingerprinted was unjust and that the forcible taking of fingerprints was illegal. Nemoto ruled that the fingerprinting of foreigners is legal and that forced fingerprinting is allowed when they refuse to give their fingerprints voluntarily.

Park was arrested in May 1985 after refusing to give his fingerprints when renewing his alien registration, and police officers forcibly took his fingerprints with a special metal implement which forces the fingers apart. Park also insisted that it was unreasonable for a judge to issue an arrest warrant because there was no danger of his fleeing.

Japanese law requires all foreigners over 16 living in Japan for more than a year to provide a print of their right index finger on an alien registration certificate, which they must carry with them at all times.

The South Korean Government has urged that fingerprinting of Korean residents in Japan be halted, and the two governments agreed Monday that Japan will abolish mandatory fingerprinting of Korean residents after an alternative method of identification is established.

Some 700,000 Koreans live in Japan, many of them descendants of conscripted Korean laborers brought over during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula between 1910 and 1945.

Japanese, ROK Legislators To Meet in Seoul

OW2811155090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1356 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—The Japanese and South Korean lawmakers' leagues will meet in Seoul on Friday to discuss bilateral issues, including the legal status of Korean residents in Japan, and the promotion of cultural exchanges, the Japan-South Korea Parliamentarians League said Wednesday.

The gathering follows a November 6 session in Tokyo, which was the first special committee meeting of the two leagues to seek solutions to bilateral issues.

The meetings are in response to the call for better ties made by President No Tae-u when he visited Japan in May, the Japanese league said.

Yokosuka Mayor Reiterates Plea to U.S. Navy

OW2811151990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Yokosuka, Kanagawa Pref., Nov. 28 KYODO—Yokosuka Mayor Kazuo Yokoyama urged Yoshio Kodama, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, on Wednesday to press local U.S. naval authorities to give up a plan to send Japanese employees at Yokosuka naval base to the Middle East to support U.S.-led multinational forces deployed there.

Yokoyama said that overseas business trips by Japanese employees at the base are limited to meetings and training sessions, and that business trips to areas where tensions are high, such as the Middle East, should not be made.

The Japanese agency is in charge of employing Japanese staff at the U.S. military base.

Japanese employees at the naval base were reportedly asked last week to go to the Persian Gulf to advise U.S. repairmen on daily maintenance and repair of vessels sent from the base.

Kanagawa Governor Kazuji Nagasu also made a similar request on Monday.

Steel Trade Talks With China Begin in Beijing

OW2811153390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Major Japanese steelmakers began negotiations with China on Wednesday in Beijing on their exports to China for the first half of 1991.

The talks will focus on volume and prices of ordinary steel for shipment between March and July, industry sources said.

The Japanese firms expect China to buy about 700,000 tons.

China is expected to seek price cuts on the grounds that its economy is now in the middle of adjustment as its currency has been devalued about 10 percent.

China National Metals and Minerals Import and Export Corp. is negotiating with the Japanese group, which includes Nippon Steel Corp.

Hong Kong Governor Addresses Businessmen

OW2811192590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Hong Kong Governor Sir David Wilson, trying to encourage more investment from Japan, said Wednesday he is confident in the future of the British colony despite its return to China in 1997.

In a speech made at a gathering of Japanese businessmen, Wilson said there are not many places with a bright future like Hong Kong despite the fact that some people are uncertain about it. He said Hong Kong is now promoting big projects such as construction of a new airport and expansion of port facilities, noting that they will provide good opportunities for expanding trade, business, and investment links between Hong Kong and Japan. But Wilson, who arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a five-day visit, expressed concern about the widening trade deficit with Japan due to an export slowdown.

Japan is a major market for Hong Kong, but imports from Japan far outpace its exports, leading the colony to run a trade deficit with Japan.

Regional Agricultural Heads Confirm Common Stand

OW2811155290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1402 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Agricultural organization leaders of Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea adopted a joint communique here Wednesday confirming their common stand in maintaining agriculture to provide staple food supplies and help the conservation of land and the environment.

The communique was jointly released by Mitsugu Horiuchi, president of the Central Union of the Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu) of Japan, Wu Ming-chin, president of the Taiwan Provincial Farmers' Association, and Han Ho-sun, president of South Korea's National Agricultural Cooperative Federation.

The leaders said the communique was aimed at strengthening their consolidation ahead of final negotiations on farm trade in the Uruguay Round of trade talks to begin on December 3 under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The communique stressed the appropriateness of rice as the staple crop for the monsoon regions of Asia and for the small-scale family farm, and stated that every country should be guaranteed the right to decide its own agricultural policy. It also said that GATT talks should evaluate the non-trade aspects of agriculture, such as food security, conservation of land and the environment, maintenance of employment in rural areas, and preservation of rural society and culture.

The communique emphasized the importance of GATT negotiations finding ways to enable the coexistence of agriculture in both importing and exporting countries.

Talking at a press conference after the release of the communique, Horiuchi stressed the importance of self-sufficiency and brushed aside questions on the possibility of replacing import barriers with tariffs. "Our self-sufficiency in farm products is 49 percent and that in cereal products is 30 percent," he said. "If anything, we want to raise our rate of self-sufficiency." Han also voiced concern over the effects of rice liberalization, which he said would hit the income of rice-growing farmers.

However, he was less adamant on the prospects of replacing import barriers with tariffs, compared with Japan's stiff refusal. "We will have to accept the tariffication of barriers if that is a decision resulting from the GATT negotiations, but only on condition that we be given a sufficient transition period," he said.

Wu, whose country has applied for GATT membership, said: "It is vital that we preserve our basic supply." But he also took a similar stand to South Korea's regarding tariffication, saying "we will be prepared to accept it as long as it does not deal a major blow to our domestic agriculture."

Chukaku-ha Claims Responsibility for Railway Blast

OW2911081990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Osaka, Nov. 29 KYODO—The radical leftist group Chukaku-ha (Middle Core faction) claimed responsibility Thursday for an explosion that tore a piece out of a retaining wall along the Tokaido Shinkansen Rail Line this week in Yokohama.

The group distributed leaflets at Kyoto University saying it had set off the explosion Monday in hopes of blocking Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko from traveling to Ise Shrine in Mie Prefecture to report the emperor's enthronement to the imperial family's legendary ancestral deities.

The 5:45 a.m. blast blew a piece of concrete out of the top of the retaining wall, scattering chunks on the rails below, and temporarily halting service between Tokyo and Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture.

The emperor and empress left Tokyo before Monday noon as scheduled after the tracks were cleared.

Chukaku-ha will also try to stop the imperial couple's trip to Kyoto and Nara scheduled next month, according to the leaflet.

OKINAWA TIMES Views Gangster Violence

OW2911041190 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 25 Nov 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Stop the Gangster Strife"]

[Text]

Unspeakable Situation

How many times have we said this fall that "the things we have been afraid of" are happening. An innocent citizen who had nothing to do with the gangsters—a youth working part time while going to school—became a victim. While we still were in shock over this, two police officers were killed and a female passer-by seriously wounded.

This time, pistol shots were fired several times at a car occupied by the plainclothes policemen on guard duty, and also at a passing civilian's car. We can find no adequate words to condemn this most vicious act. We wish to express deep condolences to the people hit by the assassins' bullets.

This extraordinary situation started with the outbreak of strife after the splitting up of the gangster group Sandaime Gyokuryukai in mid-September. In the incident, pistols were fired, killing and injuring some people. Two months have passed since the prefectural police set up a special investigative headquarters to deal with the gangster case.

During that time, there have been shootouts around gangsters' offices, which are located right in the middle of residential areas in Naha and Okinawa cities, and even children going to school have been exposed to danger. Entering November, we thought things were quieting down, but the situation got worse.

While people are angry about the gangsters—it is only natural—there are rising complaints about the police, who are supposed to place emphasis on preventing the general public from being exposed to danger.

In the wake of the night-class high school student being shot to death on 22 November, Prefectural Police Chief Asakawa expressed his determination to root out the gangster organizations. That night, police officers on duty were sought out and killed. The prefectural police are taking this as a "declaration of war" against the police.

The National Police Agency, concerned with the situation, sent in its Criminal Bureau director, Nakagawa. They say they will bring in reinforcements from other prefectures' police forces and will beef up the countermeasure headquarters, enabling it to carry out its investigation with a force of 1,000 men.

After the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, there was a time when Okinawa was considered a prefecture with no major criminal problems. Okinawa was comparable to Nagano and Nara in that regard. Entering the 1980s the situation changed, and the position of prefectural police chief—who used to be picked from the traffic police force—began to be filled by officers experienced in violent cases.

Among those people who remember the police as being very efficient at the National Athletic Games in Okinawa [in 1987], there are those who feel the police are lukewarm in their measures to protect prefectural residents from the gangsters. No one believes that the police did nothing until there were victims. However, it is not desirable that the people distrust the police because of the realization that this is taking too long to be solved.

There are many factors that can contribute to changing Okinawa from a peaceful and quiet place into a troubled place, with pistols flowing out of military bases and with narcotics and weapons flowing into it from Southeast Asia, thus turning Okinawa into a relay point. It is truly regrettable that the recent incidents substantiate this possibility.

By all means, we hope the strife of the gangsters will be stopped. There must be no more victims from the violence. Furthermore, we want the peace of the citizens' life restored and maintained. This is the wish of the prefecture's residents.

Protect the Peace of Citizens' Life

We ask the police to apprehend, without further delay, the criminals who caused the series of killings and injuries. We want the police to make efforts to terminate the financial resources of the gangsters. Since gangster offices are located where the general citizens live and this is becoming a reason why innocent citizens are victims of the gangsters' violence, the police should devise ways to remove the offices.

On the other hand, it may be that the total elimination of the gangsters' lawless violence cannot be accomplished by the efforts of the police alone. The citizens of Naha city and Okinawa Citty held rallies to demand the elimination of the gangsters. There have been other campaigns waged by citizens to root them out. However, such efforts to raise public support and gain the full cooperation of the general public will be difficult because the populace is afraid of retributions.

However, there are instances of gangster-expulsion campaigns succeeding. There is the example of the people of Ebizuka, Hamamatus City, Shizuoka Prefecture, who finally succeeded in 1988 in stopping gangsters from using their offices. It took them three years to do it, and it was done in a peaceful manner. The perseverance of the residents who withstood the feelings of terror, supported by a group of 100 plus lawyers and the news media, and the patience of the prefectural police in cracking down on the gangsters finally won out.

In Sapporo City, Hokkaido, the residents succeeded in buying a house (apartment) where gangster members lived. In Kurume of Fukuoka Prefecture, Hagi of Yamaguchi Prefecture, and Shimonoseki city, there were instances of the administration buying gangsters' offices when they were auctioned off.

We Need To Learn From Examples

In a city like Kitakyushu city, which has a long history of gangsters, it is said that the police maintain very strict surveillance on them and try not to overlook any incidents, however small they may be.

We may have to learn ways of coping with the gangsters from these other places exposed to their threats.

Earlier, when it was learned that a high school student was involved in the frontlines of gangster conflicts, the people of the prefecture were shocked. It will be impossible to root out the violence only by cracking down on low-ranking gangsters who joined the groups before coming of age and who kill people without knowing why.

We can feel how lukewarm police efforts are—calling some gangster leaders and telling them, "We serve a stern warning to you."

There is an expression "top operations." Cannot the police conduct thorough investigations and find out how much responsibility these leaders have in these cases? The police are urged to act.

Diet Marks Centenary With 'Staid' Ceremony

OW2911082290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0711 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—Japan's parliament marked its centennial Thursday in a staid 20-minute ceremony that took note of the changes the national Diet has undergone from its origins as a subordinate of the emperor to its postwar role as supreme lawmaking body. But the prominent role of the emperor in the ceremony prompted one opposition party, the Japanese Communist Party, to stay away from the venue at the House of Councillors.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Yoshio Sakurauchi, addressing members of the two chambers of the Diet and invited guests, said that since the establishment of the Imperial Diet in 1890, parliamentary politics has undergone many trials. "The parliamentary system was developed based on long years of human experience and wisdom," he said, pledging to continue to devote himself to the development of parliamentary democracy.

When Japan's parliament was established 100 years ago as Asia's first national assembly, it was subordinate to the emperor, who was empowered to introduce legislation. One chamber of the bicameral body, the House of Peers, consisted of princes and aristocrats, while members of the House of Representatives represented only wealthy taxpayers.

The Diet became the top lawmaking organ in 1947 when a new constitution was introduced under the U.S. occupation. At that time, the right to vote was extended for the first time to Japanese women.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, acknowledging past political leaders, said that in the post-war era the Diet has carried out legal reforms that form the basis of democracy.

The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) boycotted the ceremony to protest participation of the emperor, who addressed the audience of over 1,200 people from an elevated platform overlooking the assembly. A JCP spokesman said the party always boycotts such ceremonies because the presence of the emperor in the Diet conflicts with the constitutional provision that sovereignty resides with the people.

Emperor Akihito said the Diet's contribution to the establishment of parliamentary politics and its contribution to the welfare of the Japanese people is appreciated.

Standing in front of the parliament, which rose to attention, in a show of respect, Emperor Akihito said he believes that in the light of recent events the Diet has a growing responsibility for establishing world peace and ensuring the prosperity of Japan. Diet members remained seated throughout the other speeches by the heads of three branches of the government.

The centennial is receiving little attention from the public, who political analysts say are jaded by the largely formalistic Diet debates, and nearly four decades of unbroken rule by the Liberal Democratic Party.

A symposium on the Diet, past present and future, exhibitions of memorabilia, and public tours of the 54-year-old Diet building are among the commemorative events planned for the next week.

Komeito National Convention Ends 28 Nov

OW2811151690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Japan's second largest opposition party Komeito will cooperate on specific issues with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), members decided at a national convention that finished Wednesday.

But Komeito is not considering forming a coalition government with the LDP, Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said during the two-day convention at Kudan Hall in central Tokyo. He said Komeito will work with both the LDP and the middle-of-the-road Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) on particular policies when it is in the interest of the people.

Ichikawa's remarks were endorsed by party Chairman Koshiro Ishida at a press conference held after the end of the convention.

Komeito had been involved in talks toward a future coalition government with the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), DSP and United Social Democratic Party, but it abandoned the effort at its previous national convention last April.

Ishida said a political atmosphere for a coalition between the Komeito and the LDP will improve if the LDP goes ahead with political reforms and stops raising election funds from financial circles.

Ichikawa, who accompanied Ishida at the press conference, said Komeito has shut down talks on the setting-up of a coalition government with the JSP, because the No. 1 opposition party has not revealed its policies on four key issues—the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the Self-Defense Forces, the Japan-South Korea relations, and nuclear power stations.

Party members agreed at this week's convention that they see the Japanese political system in tripolar terms, dividing it into the conservative LDP, leftist JSP, and middle-of-the-road parties, including Komeito.

Party representatives re-elected Chairman Koshiro Ishida and Ichikawa. They assumed their posts in May 1988. Party delegates also adopted a declaration calling on Japan to make every effort to promote the peace and prosperity of both Japanese and foreign people. Japan can no longer pursue only its own peace and prosperity as it is now the world's second largest economic power, the declaration said. It also said Japan should make every effort to become a "mature" country in cultural and welfare terms in the 1990s.

Party Fund-Raising Hits 'Record Levels' in 1989

OW2811152990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Both income and spending by local offices of political parties and organization hit record levels last year, according to a survey by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The record income and spending were believed to have resulted from speculation that the Diet might be dissolved for a general election after the opposition victory in the July 1989 House of Councillors' election.

Income reported to prefectural election administration committees totaled 150.87 billion yen, up 11.3 percent from 1988, and 6.1 percent above the previous record, set in 1986 when elections were held for both houses of the Diet, according to figures compiled by KYODO as of Wednesday. Spending reported to the committees was a record 147.19 billion yen.

Funds raised by politicians and central party offices reported to the Home Affairs Ministry came to 173.3 billion yen in 1989, up just 0.6 percent over the year before. This brings total political revenues reported to both prefectural and national authorities in 1989 to 324.2 billion yen.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), rocked by the Recruit influence-peddling scandal and criticism of its fund-raising techniques, saw its local revenues drop by some 3.8 billion yen to 18.93 billion yen. The Japan Communist Party (JCP) garnered 29.79 billion yen, up 31 percent over 1988, to stay atop the local income list for 1989. The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) reported a 17.8 percent increase in income to 6.86 billion yen, while Komeito revenues soared 41.2 percent to 3.96 billion yen. The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) enjoyed an even higher increase, with income growing 44.7 percent to 3.95 billion yen.

Tokyo reported the largest revenues of 18.1 billion yen, followed by Osaka with 11.1 billion yen.

Individually, former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi took in 620 million yen in his Saitama Prefecture constituency alone, far outstripping other powerful LDP politicians.

Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the conservative party's Policy Research Council, ranked second with 199 million yen. Runners-up were Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto with 197 million yen, former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa with 166 million yen, former Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka with 164 million yen, and former LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe with 156 million yen.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu reported 95 million yen, while his predecessor, Noboru Takeshita, declared 40 million yen.

EPA Official Criticizes BOJ's Monetary Policy

OW2911120590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—In an unusual attack on Bank of Japan [BOJ] policy, a high-ranking official at the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) called Thursday for a loosening of monetary policy.

The official, who requested anonymity, said he cannot understand BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno's call Wednesday for slower economic growth. Mieno said the pace of growth must be slowed to the 4 percent level from this fiscal year's projected 5.5 percent to prevent inflation.

The BOJ chief said the central bank is not planning to ease its tight grip on credit, although it is gauging the effects of a series of key rate hikes on the economy. The BOJ raised the official discount rate by 0.75 percentage point to 6.0 percent on August 30, the fifth increase since May 1989.

"There is no reason to maintain the current tight credit policy, as prices remain stable. I'm not comfortable with the BOJ's monetary policy," the EPA official said.

The BOJ's tight monetary policy is discouraging active capital spending by corporate managers, hurting the economy, the official said.

Government To Lower Tariffs on Leather Products

OW2911093690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—Japan has decided to lower tariffs on imports of leather products in response to the European Community's long-standing demand, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Thursday.

But the officials refused to say how large the reduction margins will be. "We cannot reveal the figures at the moment since we have not yet offered them to the EC," one official said.

Japan will table the offer during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks over market access to be held in Brussels before the December 3-7 ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Tokyo maintains a two-tier tariff system for imports of leather shoes and other leather products, under which higher tariffs are imposed on the imports that surpass a fixed quota. For instance, a tariff of 27 percent is imposed on up to 4,120,000 pairs of imported leather shoes. A tariff, which is either 60 percent of import price, or 4,800 yen per pair, whichever is higher, is then imposed on the imports over that.

The MITI officials said the proposal for tariff cuts will still be far from the EC's demand of lowering the higher tariff rate to below 20 percent.

The government will also boost the subsidies to the concerned domestic industries by increasing the debt guarantee fund, the officials said. The allocation for increased financial assistance to the Japanese leather industries will be included in the supplementary budget for fiscal 1990, they said.

* Interest Rises in Investment in Turkey

91ES0183Z Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 4 Oct 90 p 12

[Interview with Japanese trade representative Katsuaki Noguchi; place and date not given: "Turkey Promising for Japanese Firms"]

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Trade Organization (JETRO) representative in Turkey, Katsuaki Noguchi, said that Japan wants to increase it imports, and JETRO is trying to do this almost everywhere in the world. Noting that Japan has an import volume that is growing more each year, Noguchi said Turkish export products will find a ready market in Japan when they meet certain criteria. Noguchi stressed the need for Turkish companies to improve their technology level and for special importance to be given to developing industry. Noguchi also drew attention to Turkey's geographical location overlooking Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia and said that this makes it attractive to Japanese firms when combined with such features as the sophistication of its domestic market, its skilled work force and the cost of labor which improves its competitiveness.

Our interview with JETRO representative Noguchi follows:

[DUNYA] Mr. Noguchi, when was JETRO formed? What is its basic purpose?

[Noguchi] JETRO was formed in 1958. After the end of World War II in 1945, Japan undertook to rebuild its economy, along with almost everything else. Everything was destroyed. For 15 years Japan was occupied with cleaning up the debris and rebuilding. Industry slowly developed later, and exports grew as production increased. However, Japanese firms were not sufficiently acquainted with foreign markets. There were, of course, some large companies with foreign market experience. But medium-sized export companies, especially, did not have these opportunities. So JETRO was formed during this time to help these companies.

[DUNYA] What is the level of JETRO's organization today? How many countries is it active in?

[Noguchi] JETRO has 77 offices in 57 countries. Counting the central bureau in Tokyo, it has a total of 30 offices in Japan also. These offices in Japan and foreign countries employ approximately 1,200 personnel.

[DUNYA] We know that Japan is one of the world's biggest exporters today. JETRO certainly has succeeded at the job for which it was founded. Is it still JETRO's basic goal today to increase the exports of Japanese companies?

[Noguchi] As I said a little while ago, JETRO's basic purpose, the reason it was established, was to increase the exports of Japanese companies. It was extremely successful in this activity during the 10 or 15 years following its formation. Japan's exports improved almost every year. Especially after the 1970's, technological production grew extremely fast compared to other countries. Japan's exports grew steadily and the import-export balance tilted heavily in favor of exports. We started getting complaints in trade with other countries. The balance of trade was skewed. For this reason JETRO undertook a new job. Today we may comfortably say that JETRO has now switched the goal of increasing exports to the goal of increasing imports.

[DUNYA] You said you had problems with some countries because of the trade imbalance. Are you referring to the criticisms from the United States and Western Europe about Japan not opening its markets?

[Noguchi] Yes, there were criticisms of that kind. As you know, they criticized us in this regard, but they did not have sufficient information about the situation in Japan. Now they know better. JETRO launched various efforts to inform others about the Japanese market. It undertook activities such as developing relations, showing export opportunities on Japanese markets, encouraging investments by Japanese companies rather than the export of Japanese goods to foreign countries, and trying to emphasize the transfer of technology rather than the export of goods.

[DUNYA] You mentioned the U.S. criticisms and some Western countries' lack of knowledge of the situation in Japan. Would you explain what the situation was?

[Noguchi] The Japanese market has certain characteristics. The Japanese consumer and the Japanese merchant are different from the consumer and businessman in the United States or some other country. Some historical traditions heavily influence the Japanese market. It is necessary to accept this, that the Japanese customer is different. When we entered the U.S. and West European markets, we learned the characteristics of these markets. It is necessary for others to know the Japanese market when they wish to enter this market. We try to be helpful to the exports of foreign countries. There are two ways of doing this; first to help the exports of the industrialized Western countries, and second to help industrializing countries improve their exports. But in either case it is impossible to promise easy exportation without knowing the Japanese market well.

Another criticism by Western countries is that Japan has not invented any technology but simply takes technology form the West and applies it. I do not think this is true.

Japan's successes in technology are proof of this. Moreover, no one can deny that it does no good to only produce technology; and that the ability to apply it is a separate skill.

[DUNYA] Would you discuss JETRO's activities in this regard from Turkey's standpoint? How long has JETRO been in Turkey? What kind of activities is it engaged in?

[Noguchi] We are active in Turkey in the ways that I mentioned. We have been in Turkey since 1963. As for the form of activities, we send experts in various sectors to Turkey; a group of textile experts is coming, for example. They will hold various seminars and provide information on technological developments to Turkish textile producers. We also send Turkish engineers or market researchers to Japan to learn about the Japanese market first hand. We research opportunities for cooperation. JETRO activities today are basically to encourage imports instead of exports and activities stressing mutual cooperation instead of production in a country.

[DUNYA] But it cannot be said that Turkey's balance of trade with Japan has been rectified yet. Japan's exports are several times higher than Turkey's exports.

[Noguchi] This is certainly a procedural problem. Turkish-Japanese trade has followed a positive trend in the past five years. Turkey is increasing its exports to Japan.

[DUNYA] What suggestions would JETRO make to Turkish companies wishing to do business with Japan?

[Noguchi] We always say that Turkish companies have to improve their level of technology. Development of Turkish industry is a must. Japan is a consumer society used to high technology and quality. It is necessary for firms that export to Japan to realize what this means.

Let me say this also: If Turkey is going to join the EC it will have to reach the technological and industrial level in those countries also. I think I can say that the period in which we are living right now is an extremely important time filled with opportunities for Turkey. If Turkey uses its geographical advantages well, it can increase its exports to Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and even the Soviet Union and East Europe. Japanese companies also want to develop cooperation related to activities in this direction. We are ready to help Turkish firms wishing to take advantage of this kind of opportunities for cooperation as well as to enter the Japanese market.

[DUNYA] Japanese firms have stepped up investments in Turkey in the past 10 years. The latest example of this is Toyota. Why is this, in your opinion?

[Noguchi] The reason for Japanese firms coming to Turkey, not just Toyota but others as well, is that they see it as an attractive market and area for investment with its domestic market in this region, its trained work force, and labor costs that make it competitive. Generally speaking, Turkey is a market with promise for the future. Japanese firms are thinking that if they do not invest now, European producers may gain control of this market. They see that exports are not adequate and that it is necessary to invest in Turkey.

North Korea

Inter-Korean Sports Talks on Unified Teams Held

*SK2911050890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0443 GMT 29 Nov 90*

[Text] Panmunjom November 29 (KCNA)—The first inter-Korean sports talks for discussing the formation of unified teams to compete in major international games including the 41st world table tennis championships, the 25th Olympic games and the 3rd Winter Asiad are under way at the Tongil House in the northern portion of Panmunjom today according to the agreement reached during the North-South reunification soccer games.

In his keynote speech at the talks Kim Hyong-chin, head of our side's delegation, proposed the South side to agree to the following three principles to be observed by both sides in forming the unified teams:

Firstly, unified teams shall be formed on the principle of avoiding North-South confrontation and contributing to national reconciliation, unity and reunification.

Secondly, the North and the South shall make it a rule to participate in major international games (including major international games in Pyongyang and Seoul) as unified teams.

Thirdly, the North and the South shall not give up participating in games as unified teams halfway but shall continue it till the country is reunified.

The head of our side's delegation came up with drafts of agreements on the participation of North-South unified teams in the 41st world table tennis championships, the Asian regional soccer preliminaries of the 25th Olympic games and the 6th world junior (under 20) soccer championships including "an agreement on the formation and participation of North-South unified teams" and proposed to discuss them.

In these draft agreements our side suggested that the North- South unified team be called "Koria" in Korean and be written "Korea" in Roman letters (abbrev. "Kor'-'), the flag of the team be a Korean map in blue on a white canvas and the song of the team be "Arirang," a song widely sung in Korea in the 1920s.

Our side proposed to finish the selection of the North-South single team for the 41st world table tennis championships by the 15th of February, 1991, the single team for the Asian regional soccer preliminaries of the 25th Olympiad by the 10th of March, 1991, and the single team for the 6th world junior soccer championships by the 31st of March, 1991.

The talks are going on.

Further Report on Results of N-S Contact

SK2911051590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The second working-level contact for the preparation of the third round of North-South High-Level Talks was held at 1000 this morning in the South side's portion of Panmunjom. The contact was held in camera.

After the contact, our side's delegate, Paek Nam-chun, gave a news briefing.

He pointed out that the task of the working-level contact for the preparation of the North-South High-Level Talks is to confirm the documents to be discussed and adopted at the third round of high-level talks and to arrange the drafts. He said that at the second round of talks held today following the first round of working-level contact held on 21 November, our side proposed that a joint statement of North-South High-Level Talks, a North-South nonaggression declaration, and a declaration on cooperation and exchange between the two parts be confirmed as the documents to be published at the forthcoming third round and urged the South side to start arranging its drafts.

He stressed that the three documents put forward by our side not only reflect the entire fellow countrymen's noble desire for reunification but also the contents of the proposals made by the South side in the past. However, the South side deliberately created an obstacle to the contact by bringing forward the division-oriented basic agreement on the improvement of North-South relations in opposition to the documents proposed by our side, thus hindering us from reaching agreement.

Answering questions raised by reporters, he proved the justness of the three documents proposed by our side and laid bare the divisive and antireunification nature of the South side-proposed basic agreement on the improvement of North-South relations.

The draft of a joint declaration of the North-South High-Level Talks which our side proposed stipulates the reconfirmation of the three-point principles for national reunification declared in the North-South joint statement and thorough observation of the principles, recognition and respect of the ideas and systems existing in the other side; non-interference in domestic affairs of the other side and giving priority to the common interests of the nation over that of one side in discussing issues.

The draft of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South stipulates exclusion of the use of armed forces against the other side; peaceful resolution of problems on disputes through dialogue and negotiations; designation of the North-South nonaggression boundary according to the Military demarcation line [MDL] prescribed in the Korean Armistice Agreement; turning of the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] on the MDL into peace zone; ending the arms race and pushing for phased reduction of arms and discontinuation of large-scale military exercises.

The draft of a declaration on cooperation and exchange between the North and the South prescribes the realization of free visits and contacts; the realization of economic collaboration and exchange of materials; the efforts for linking disconnected railways, roads and communications networks; joint creation, joint production, and joint performances in the domains of literature and arts; participation in international games as a single sports team; and legal and systematic measures for realizing multi-faceted cooperation and exchanges.

Stressing that the aforementioned three documents put forward by our side are a very just proposal ensuring the fruition of the third round of North-South High-Level Talks, Paek Nam-chun, our side's delegate, pointed out that this proposal comprehensively reflects the contents of proposals officially put forward by both sides during the previous two occasions of the North-South High-Level Talks and thus it is a most just and fair proposal which is acceptable to anyone. He said that secondly, this proposal fully corresponds to the tasks and missions of the North-South High-Level Talks which are designed for the removal of political and military confrontation and realization of cooperation and exchange.

However, the South side merely persisted in adopting the so-called basic agreement it put forward. Furthermore, on the pretext that there is no time, the South side not only avoided confirming the three documents, which our side put forward, as documents to be adopted at the third round of North-South High-Level Talks, but also stubbornly claimed that it would not agree to adopt any proposal including a nonaggression declaration unless the basic agreement which it put forward is adopted.

He said: The so-called basic agreement put forward by the South side, which stipulated respecting political systems, establishing a permanent mission and concluding a treaty, is a division-oriented plan to perpetuate the present state of the nation's division through an agreement between the North and the South. This is, in essence, an imitative version of the treaty on basic relations which legalized the two states of East and West Germany in early 1970, and thus cannot be acceptable.

He pointed out that the unreasonable and unrealistic nature of this so-called basic agreement was intensively revealed by the fact that it touched with only few words, as a matter of formality, on the issue of a nonaggression declaration, which is the most urgent and most essential issue for the peaceful reunification of the nation, and that it ignored the issue of disarmament. He said that after careful review, he came to realize that this agreement excluded even such content as the issue of ending the arms race and not using armed forces against the other side which were included in the draft of a joint declaration for reconciliation and cooperation between the North and the South which the South side proposed during the second round of North-South High-Level Talks.

He said that the South side has retreated far from even its previous inclusive position. The South side asserted that before trust is created, it cannot adopt a nonaggression declaration and that it will push for arms reduction only after military trust is built. He pointed out that according to the South side's assertions, disarmament on the Korean peninsula and adoption of a nonaggression declaration can hardly be realized in even 10 or 20 years.

Recalling the emphasis which our side put on the significance of adopting a nonaggression declaration during the past North-South High-Level Talks, he pointed out that the issue of adopting a nonaggression declaration is very important because the basic source of distrust can be removed; an atmosphere for national reconciliation, unity, and trust can be created; and peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula can be guaranteed only after this declaration is adopted.

In particular, the issue of adopting a nonaggression declaration is a key factor for successfully pushing ahead with North-South High-Level Talks.

He stated that despite this clear fact, the South side, even [illegible] the current working-level contact, utterly opposed adopting a nonaggression declaration. Under this circumstance, our side urged the South side to make its position clear as to whether or not it has the intention of continuing the North-South High-Level Talks and whether or not it has the intention reunifying the nation.

He continued: The issue of adopting a nonaggression declaration is an issue which the South side has also proposed. In particular, during the second round of North-South High-Level Talks, the South side promised us that it will accept and settle [chopsu takyolhada] this issue in a forward-looking manner at the third round of talks. Despite this, the South side acted counter to its promise. Thus, the South side itself showed that it has no faithfulness.

Paek Nam-chun, our side's delegate, pointed out that from the desire to make the third round of North-South High-Level Talks fruitful and to live up to the expectation of the nation, and taking into consideration the South side's assertion that it is difficult to arrange drafts of the three documents at the same time, our side put forward an epoch-making compromise proposal to adopt only a North-South nonaggression declaration and a declaration on North-South cooperation and exchange.

He pointed out that we showed generosity in properly offering to include a draft of the joint declaration of the North-South High-Level Talks in the above-mentioned two documents if the South so wishes.

The South side said that it will study our compromise proposal before the next contact.

The two sides agreed to hold the third round of working-level contact for the third round of North-South High-Level Talks in Tongilgak in our side's area at Panmunjom on 1 December.

Seoul's Change of Ministerial Board Name Viewed

SK2611062690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—A commentary of NODONG SINMUN today stresses that what is important for the South Korean authorities is to give up the splittist policy and effect a switchover in its policy, adopting a reunification-oriented policy, rather than changing the signboard of the "National Unification Board."

The news analyst says:

The South Korean puppets decided to change the name of the "National Unification Board" into "Unification Board" and upgrade the "minister of the National Unification Board" to the level of "deputy prime minister" and are now propagandizing this through the press as a step "demonstrating" their "unification policy and will" and reflecting the ardent desire of the people for reunification.

No matter how loudly the South Korean rulers may advertise the change of the signboard of the "Unification Board" without a policy switchover, it is useless for anything.

It is clear why the puppets are putting up the signboard of "unification" while pursuing national split behind the scene.

Much upset by the people's growing ardor for reunification, the puppets staged the farce of changing the signboard and upgrading the position this time to win the favor of the people and obstruct reunification in a more crafty way by feigning concern for reunification.

The South Korean puppets must discard the wrong habit of fooling the people with the question of national reunification, the long-cherished desire of the nation.

Daily on South's Stand on Nonaggression Pact

SK2811070490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 28 Nov 90

["Cock-and-Bull Story"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—At the second working-level contact held in Panmunjom on November 27 to arrange the third inter-Korean high-level talks our side tabled drafts of "a joint statement of the North-South High-Level Talks," "a North-South nonaggression declaration" and "a declaration on cooperation and exchange between the North and the South" as documents to be discussed and adopted at the third talks. The South side, however, insisted on its "basic agreement on the improvement of relations between the North and the South" alone, contending that "time is short" and a nonaggression declaration should be adopted in future because "confidence-building" has not yet been achieved between the North and the South.

This is the topic of a NODONG SINMUN commentary today, which reads in part:

The points of the three documents proposed by us had also been proposed by the South side at the two rounds of North-South High-Level Talks. It does not make sense to say time is too short to define and rearrange the documents. Moreover, the argument that a nonaggression declaration cannot be adopted because "confidence has not yet been built" between the North and the South is a cock-and-bull story and a far-fetched protestation.

Misunderstanding and distrust existing between the North and the South come from the fear of being attacked or conquered. It follows from this that only when a nonaggression declaration is adopted is it possible to remove distrust and misunderstanding and build confidence.

Their refusal to adopt a nonaggression declaration on the plea of the absence of "confidence-building" is a reversed talk and a pretext to avoid adopting it.

As is known, the South Korean person in top authority called for adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South of Korea in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly and said in his "address" on the anniversary of the August 15 liberation that the time has come to adopt it.

The question of adopting a nonaggression declaration was also mentioned in the keynote speech of the chief delegate of the South side at the first North-South High-Level Talks. Nevertheless, the South side reversed its own words and objected to adopting the declaration at the very moment when we proposed to adopt it. This is a rude act bereft of elementary confidence. It only shows that their talk about adoption of a nonaggression declaration was aimed at producing propaganda effects and they actually have no intention to do anything.

The South Korean authorities' real intention is to prolong the state of division indefinitely and maintain the confrontation between the North and the South.

This scheme of the South side can be seen in the fact that they put the North and the South in a position of "two separate states" and their "basic agreement" is aimed at freezing the division. This document omits even the "nonuse of armed forces" and "halt to arms race," the questions which they had already raised. This means a retreat.

The behavior of the South side at the working-level contact casts dark shadows over the talks.

The South side must discard their stance of confrontation and division and accept our side's proposal.

Daily Denounces South's Continuing 'Team Spirit'

SK2811070890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 28 Nov 90

["'Team Spirit' Must Be Terminated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets held an "annual security consultative meeting" with their master, the U.S. imperialists, in the United States and openly declared that they would continue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with the U.S. against the northern half of Korea.

This is a grave challenge to peace on the Korean peninsula and part of a premeditated intrigue to obstruct the Korean people's cause of peaceful reunification, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

Out of the desire to remove the political and military confrontation between the North and the South, defuse tension and achieve national reunification, we have repeatedly urged the United States and the South Korean authorities to put an end to the criminal joint military manoeuvres and brought up this problem in the on-going North-South High-Level Talks. And we proposed that if the South side finds it difficult to solve this problem by itself, the North and the South send a letter to the U.S. Government demanding an end to this military manoeuvres in the name of North-South High-Level Talks.

But the South Korean authorities, ignoring our just demand, declared that they would continue the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres together with the aggressors. This is an insult to their dialogue partner and a deliberate criminal act rejecting North-South dialogue and reunification.

"Reduction of scale" advertized by the South Korean puppets is a deceptive propaganda to cover up the scale of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

It is a shameless concealment of reality for the puppets to describe the "Team Spirit" as a "defensive exercise" to counter "threat from the North".

There has never been and can never be "threat from the North".

The puppets will not dare deny the fact that we proposed to the South Korean authorities to find a way out for the nation through cooperation, unity and reunification when an unexpected event broke out and the political situation was plunged into a great confusion in South Korea.

When the entire fellow countrymen desire peace of the country and its peaceful reunification, the withdrawal of foreign forces has become a trend and all the nations are advancing toward independence, the South Korean puppets still intend to persistently stage nuclear war manoeuvres directed against fellow countrymen together with the aggressors. They are, indeed, a band of traitors never to be condoned.

The South Korean authorities must not merely cry for "detente", "dialogue" and "peaceful reunification", but must show their will for them by declaring to the world the discontinuation of the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres.

Policy To Prevent War, Preserve Peace Reported

SK2111122790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1027 GMT 21 Nov 90

["Prevention of War and Defense of Peace Are Consistent Policy of DPRK Government"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—The policy of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to prevent war and preserve peace is a just policy which accords with the desire of the Korean and world people for peace and conforms with the requirement of our era toward detente, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article entitled "prevention of war and defense of peace are consistent policy of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

The DPRK Government has consistently pursued a peaceloving policy, the article says, and continues:

To solve the question of the country's reunification in a peaceful way, not by means of war, is an invariable stand maintained by the DPRK Government. This stand is fully proved by the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, five-point policy of national reunification and many other disarmament proposals and peace overtures advanced by the DPRK and its invariable efforts for their materialization. This stand is clearly verified once again by proposals advanced by us at recent North-South High-Level Talks with a view to removing political and military confrontation between the North and the South.

In order to prevent a war and defend peace, it is imperative to realize disarmament, completely dismantle nuclear weapons and withdraw aggressive forces and military bases from other countries. In this connection, the DPRK Government already put forward many reasonable proposals. For their fairness and justness, all the peace proposals and assertion of the DPRK Government are approved and supported in international arena—such matters as to check and frustrate the continued arms buildup and war preparations of the imperialists, realize universal and complete disarmament, create nuclear-free, peace zones in different parts of the world and constantly expand them, dismantle military bases of the U.S. imperialists and withdraw their troops and mass destruction weapons from other countries, dissolve all the military blocs, and to settle all disputes in a peaceful way, not by force of arms.

The Korean people will, as ever, closely unite with the progressive people of the world and continue to staunchly fight for peace of Korea and its peaceful reunification and in defence of peace in Asia and the rest of the world under the uplifted banner of independence, peace and friendship.

Seoul's Obstruction of Japanese Ties Decried

SK2911113490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1036 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered the question of a KCNA reporter as regards the desperate efforts made by the South Korean authorities to obstruct the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations at the "South Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting."

The spokesman said:

The matter of the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations is now on the order of the day amid the deep interests of the world. Flurried by this, the South Korean authorities are behaving themselves quite in a shameful manner in an effort to put a spoke in the wheel of the improvement of the DPRK-Japan relations and drive a wedge between the two.

Some time ago South Korean "Prime Minister" Kang Yong-hun visited Japan and mumbled that the DPRK-Japan relations must not be normalized. Then No Tae-u clung to the sleeves of Japanese cabinet ministers who came to Seoul and set various conditions saying half entreatingly and half threateningly that no haste should be made with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan and it should be promoted in keeping with the progress of North-South dialogue.

The conditions set by the South Korean authorities mean, in essence, that they intend to drag on the North-South dialogue in the future not to make it progress smoothly, so Japan should drag on time in the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations in step with it.

The South Korean authorities are so fearful of the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations and are trying to hinder it because they can invent pretexts to justify the presence of U.S. forces in South Korea only when the situation in Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula remains unstable and strained as it is today and because the present South Korean rulers may prolong their remaining days by keeping the U.S. forces there. Furthermore, this signifies that the South Korean authorities, mere servants of the United States, resent their U.S. masters' scheme to perpetuate the division of Korea through "two Koreas" and increase the tensions and the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

The harder they try to obstruct the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations in this way, the more glaringly they will reveal their ugly color to the world.

Ignorant by nature and lost to shame and reason, they stoop to any infamy. They will get nothing thereof, however, and the day will come when they will be frustrated in their attempt.

As for Japan, we think she would not dance to the absurd tune of others.

'Obtrusive Interference' Deplored

SK2911071490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 29 Nov 90

["Obtrusive Interference"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets, at the "South Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting" in Seoul, laid down absurd "preconditions" for the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations, poking their nose into others' affairs. Branding this as an obtrusive interference, a news analyst of MINJU CHOSON today says:

The issue of the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations is a matter pertaining to sovereignty which should be solved in conformity with the desire of the two peoples, in favor of peace in Asia and the rest of the world and in accordance with the independent will of the DPRK and Japanese governments.

What made the puppets impertinently thrust their nose into the issue of the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations?

To draw the conclusion first, the puppets intend to obstruct the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations, derail the inter-governmental talks between the two countries from the reunification-orientated track and put it on the division-orientated one. This is fully illustrated by the fact that they brought forward "five-point consideration" urging Japan not to establish diplomatic relations with the DPRK before the North joined the nuclear safeguards accord and recognized the "entity" of South Korea and South Korea opened diplomatic relations with China.

The puppets are not in a position to urge us to join the nuclear safeguards accord.

More than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea and the DPRK, a non-nuclear country, is under the threat of a nuclear attack.

Therefore, it is only too apparent that the issue of our joining the accord is directly related to the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from South Korea and it cannot be solved before the United States gives us an assurance that it will refrain from a nuclear threat to us.

As for the "recognition of the entity" doctrine, it means that the division of Korea should be proclaimed by agreement between the North and the South. And their claim that Japan should not establish diplomatic relations with the DPRK before China opens diplomatic relations with South Korea is intended to lay rails for "cross recognition" aimed at the creation of "two Koreas".

The "consideration" brought forward by the puppets, in all aspects, presupposes division. The puppets are despicable enough to try to use this divisive concept as a brake on the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations.

And it is ridiculous of the puppets to cry that the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations has "great possibility to adversely affect North-South dialogue". Their jargon means that with DPRK-Japan relations remaining unsolved, is it possible to make a progress in North-South dialogue. It cannot go down with anyone.

In a word, the South Korean puppets clearly indicated that they dislike the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations and seek confrontation, division and war.

They, mindful of their position, must refrain from poking their nose into other's affairs and act with discretion.

Korea-Japan Group Denounces Seoul

SK2511091290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Association for the Promotion of Korea-Japan Friendship issued today a statement denouncing the obstructive moves of South Korean authorities against the improvement of Korea-Japan relations.

The statement reads:

We cannot repress national indignation at the fact that the South Korean authorities are resorting to manoeuvres to obstruct the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations after the publication of the joint declaration of three parties of Korea and Japan.

As already reported, South Korean "Prime Minister" Kang Yong-hun visited Japan some time ago and made contacts with Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu and former Prime Minister Takeshita and other high-ranking figures of Japan, at which he prattled that Japan should "seriously approach" the problem of the normalization of Korea-Japan relations through "discussion" with South Korea and in consonance with the "progress of South-North dialogue."

Earlier, when the joint declaration of Korean and Japanese three parties was published, the South Korean authorities took every opportunity to take issue with the content of it and impudently demanded its explanation of the Japanese Government.

When inter-governmental talks began between Korea and Japan, they, in an effort to break it up, have tried to put a spoke in the wheel of the Japanese Government in its approach to the talks by putting forward ridiculous "five preconditions", that is to say, the DPRK should join the nuclear safeguards accord and recognize the "entity" of South Korea Japan must not establish diplomatic relations with the DPRK before China opens diplomatic relations with South Korea and Japan must not pay reparations before the opening of diplomatic relations or render economic cooperation of military nature. [punctuation in sentence as received] What is more, the South Korean authorities intend to place the issue of the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations on the agenda of the "South Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting" scheduled from November 26 and impede there again the progress of the discussion of this matter. This vividly reveals the insidious and shameless design of the South Korean authorities to obstruct the improvement of the DPRK-Japan relations which is on the order of the day and drive a wedge between the two countries. The relations between the DPRK and Japan is, by origin, an issue between the two countries and accordingly, it should be resolved in accordance with the independent will of the two governments in keeping with the desire of the peoples of the two countries and in the interest of peace in Asia and the rest of the world under all circumstances. The South Korean authorities have, therefore, neither ground nor right to poke their nose into this matter and talk this or that. It is quite strange that the South Korean authorities openly display jealousy against the normalization of relations between us and Japan and take issue with it for no reason, while themselves going hectic to improve relations with East European countries under the signboard of "northern policy." When the problem of relations between the DPRK and Japan which has long remained unresolved owing to national split is at last being solved in the interest of our nation. [punctuation as received] It is a treacherous criminal act that can never be pardoned for the South Korean authorities to decry and hamper this development, far from rejoicing at and welcoming it as members of the same nation. It is not only in the interests of the peoples of the DPRK and Japan but also very helpful to building a new peaceful and prosperous Asia for the two countries to establish and develop good neighbourly relations on the principle of independence, equality and mutual benefit.

We the Association for the Promotion of Korea-Japan Friendship has made joint efforts up to now for developing the good neighbourly relations in close contact with the Japanese Dietmen's League for Promotion of Japan-Korea friendship.

The talks between the three parties of Korea and Japan held at the end of September and the joint declaration adopted there were of epochal significance in solving the outstanding problems between Korea and Japan and normalizing the relations between the two countries.

On this basis, inter-governmental talks are under way for improving the relations between Korea and Japan.

These steps for the improvement of the Korea-Japan relations accord with the present trend toward peace and enjoy full support from the peoples of the two countries and the peace-loving people of the world.

Nevertheless, only the South Korean authorities are putting a spoke in its wheel, attaching unreasonable conditions to the problem of Korea-Japan relations. This only reveals their anti-national nature.

We sternly denounce the attempt of the South Korean authorities to obstruct the improvement of the Korea-Japan relations, branding it as an anti-national, anti-historical crime going against the desire of the whole nation and the trend of the present times.

Never will the end of those going against the contemporary trend be good.

The South Korean authorities must stop at once their criminal acts of blocking the improvement of the Korea-Japan relations.

The South Korean authorities who cannot manage their own affairs should not try to interfere in the affairs of others but make the U.S. troops withdraw and free the people from the protracted yoke of colonial slavery.

If they persist in obstructing the improvement of Korea-Japan relations, going against the trend of the time and history, they will be sternly condemned as the foe of peace, foe of reunification by the whole nation and precipitate their own destruction.

Reverend Mun Gives Lecture Regarding His Visit

SK2511082490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0800 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 25 (KCNA)—A meeting to hear a report on Rev. Mun Ik-hwan's visit to the North and a lecture on it were held at the Kwangju Christian Youth Hall in South Korea on November 23 with the attendance of dissidents, students and citizens of Kwangju and Chonnam areas, some 1,300 in all, according to a report.

Rev. Mun in his lecture said that if reunification is to be achieved at an early date in accordance with the desire of our nation, antagonism should be removed and the keen awareness of being fellow countrymen be kept in minds.

For reunification, he stressed, the "National Security Law" which suppresses the desire of the people for reunification should be scrapped first of all.

U.S. Air Force Exercises Criticized

SK2911052690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0431 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors brought formations of nuclear capable F-16 fighter bombers into South Korea from Japan on November 23 to stage a criminal nuclear air strike exercise for a surprise attack on targets in the strategic depth of the northern half of Korea in coordination with scores of formations of nuclear capable F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers of the U.S. Seventh Airforce stationed in South Korea, according to military sources.

And they staged airlifting exercises by bringing formations of Japan-based C-130 and C-141 transport planes carrying aggression troops and combat materials to the Osan and Suwon Air Bases and quickly deploying them in the operational zones on November 23, 24, and 25.

Japanese Communications Group To Sign Pact

SK2811070190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Japan International Telegraph and Telephone Co. Ltd., headed by KosekiYasuo, director of the company, flew to Pyongyang on November 27 to sign an agreement on direct communication circuit via satellite between Korea and Japan.

Satellite Agreement Reached

SK2911111290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—An agreement on opening direct circuit via satellite between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan was signed here today.

The agreement was signed by Kim Yong-nyong, chief engineer of the international communications bureau of the DPRK, and Yasuo Koseki, director of the Japan International Telegraph and Telephone Co. Ltd.

The signing of the agreement will help smoothly provide mutual ties between the DPRK and Japan in telegraph and telephone, television, sound transmission and other fields.

Chongnyon Reveals Plight of Koreans in Japan

SK2411044490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo November 22 (KNS-KCNA)—Prefectural fact-finding groups of prefectural assemblymen, scholars, men of culture and Koreans in Japan were formed on November 17 and 19 to investigate into the plight of Koreans who were taken to Tokushima and Kagawa Prefectures and overdriven during the period of the Japanese imperialists' rule over Korea.

It was disclosed by the fact-finding group of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) that some 1,900 Koreans were taken to Japan and driven hard at the construction sites of an airfield and pits in Kagawa Prefecture before Korean liberation. In this connection, a demand for a thoroughgoing investigation has been raised.

The newly-formed fact-finding groups have begun on-spot inspection. They have found pits and got testimonies.

Further Reportage on Yon Hyong-muk PRC Visit

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed

SK2911011090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Beijing November 27 (KCNA)—An agreement on economic cooperation between the DPRK and China was signed today in Beijing.

Premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK Yon Hyong-muk and Premier of the State Council of China Li Peng took part in a signing ceremony.

The agreement was signed by Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, and Wu Xueqian, vice-premier of the State Council of China, on behalf of their governments.

Yon Hyong-muk Ends Visit

SK2911042590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Premier Yon Hyong-muk of the State Administration Council and his entourage ended their official goodwill visit to the PRC and left Beijing by plane today.

Qi Yuanjing, Chinese minister of metallurgical industry; Liu Huaqiu, vice foreign minister; Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country; and other functionaries concerned bid them farewell at the airport.

Also, Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador to China and members of the embassy staff were on hand at the airport.

Continuing Reportage on O Chin-u's Iran Visit

O Chin-u Meets Iranian President

SK2911081390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0539 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—Tete-a-tete talks were held in Teheran on November 27 between Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Delegation Tours Munitions Plant

SK2911011390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On 26 November, the DPRK military delegation led by O Chin-u, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's

Armed Forces, which is visiting Iran, toured a munitions factory and the Defense Industry Exhibition Hall in the factory.

Acting general commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; vice general of the chief of staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; president of the Staff College of the Guards Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Iran's ambassador to our country; and our country's ambassador to Iran and military attache to our embassy accompanied the delegation.

The minister of defense and armed forces logistics; the first vice chairman of the munitions industry organ of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; the manager of the factory; and other functionaries concerned welcomed the delegation on-the-spot.

On 25 November, some members of the delegation participated in the opening ceremony of the cultural and sports event of the mobilization army of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

KCNA Reviews 29 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK2911071890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry a message of greetings sent by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania and president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the liberation and the victory of the people's revolution in Albania.

Appearing in the press is a solidarity message sent by President Kim Il-song to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on the occasion of the "day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people."

The press carries a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song to Borisav Jovic, president of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on the occasion of the day of the republic, national holiday of the Yugoslav people.

The great leader President Kim Il-song received letters from different countries, according to NODONG SINMUN.

The daily tells a story that President Kim Il-song has managed affairs of state, making all his untiring efforts to meet the people's demands.

The daily reports that a work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was reported and deeply studied in different countries.

A MINJU CHOSON article tells that Comrade Kim Chong-il has exerted all efforts to convert Korea into a country free from taxes.

Given in the press is an account of a national symposium on the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il "the Workers' Party of Korea organizes and guides all the victories of our people."

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article on the first anniversary of the publication of "On Further Improving and Strengthening Labour Administration", a historical letter of Comrade Kim Chong-il to the attendants of a national short course of labour administration officials.

Echoed in the daily is reaction of officials to the reply letter of Comrade Kim Chong-il to the letter of the members of the party cell No. 2 of the department No. 5 of the Korean Central News Agency.

South Korean students are widely disseminating the great chuche idea, says the daily.

It is reported in the press that the Iranian president met the DPRK military delegation and tete-a-tete talks were held between the Iranian president and the minister of People's Armed Forces of Korea. An account of the sojourn of the delegation in Iran is also given in the press.

The premier of the DPRK Administration Council came back home after paying a visit to China and an agreement on economic cooperation between Korea and China was signed in Beijing, according to the press.

Printed in the press is a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Antigua and Barbuda.

Economic news of the press includes reports that agricultural working people on the Ponghwa Cooperative Farm in Kangdong County, Pyongyang Municipality, upholding the on-the-spot teachings of President Kim Il-song, are making haste with the work of carpeting fields with humus soil and rural communities in Sohung County are directing efforts to raising the fertility of soil.

Conspicuous in the press is a story under the title "Beautiful Deed Which Came Into Bloom on the Flower Garden of Korea-China Friendship" that the people and soldiers of Jian, China, helped in putting out the fire around the Unbong Power Station in Chasong County, Chagang Province.

Papers report that the newly-appointed DPRK ambassador e.p. to the Republic of Vanuatu paid a courtesy call on the prime minister of Vanuatu and talks were held between the foreign ministers of the DPRK and Cuba.

The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan published a statement denouncing the South Korean authorities for continuously scheming to hinder the normalisation of

DPRK-Japan relations at the "South Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting", says the press.

Included in the South Korean news of the press are reports that major literary works of the northern half of Korea were brought out and dissident organisations demanded an open apology by the U.S. Forces.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the U.S. imperialist aggressors committed a nuclear aerial attack and airlifting operation exercise against the North.

Papers give an account of the third working-level contact held between the North and the South to discuss practical matters concerning the participation of the Pyongyang national musical troupe in the "traditional concert for reunification seeing 1990 out" due in Seoul.

A commentary of NODONG SINMUN denounces the South Korean authorities for suppressing the participants in rallies for urging the resignation of the No Tae-u "regime" held in different parts of South Korea.

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary condemning the South Korean puppets for speaking ill of DPRK-Japan relations at the "South Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting".

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article demanding that the South Korean authorities show a positive response to the questions of removing the political and military confrontation between the North and the South.

Cuba opened to the public the letters exchanged between her and the Soviet Union at the time of the 1962 missile crisis, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Congolese president outlined the prospect of the country's development, the Islamic leader of Iran referred to the Palestinian question the federal secretary for internal affairs and the former federal secretary for national defence of Yugoslavia called for protecting the territorial integrity of the country and a South American meeting for peace and democratic security was held .

Papers observe the 46th anniversary of the liberation and victory of the people's revolution in Albania and "day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people".

An article of NODONG SINMUN exposes the crafty divisive intrigues of the South African racist clique.

Kim Il-song Gives Guidance at Cooperative Farm

SK2811052090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0418 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on November 27 gave an on-the-spot guidance to the Ponghwa Cooperative Farm in Kangdong County, Pyongyang municipality.

He was accompanied by Vice-premier Choe Yong-nim, Vice-premier Kang Hui-won, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea So Kwan-hui and officials concerned.

After acquainting himself with this year's farming on the farm, President Kim Il-song expressed satisfaction over the fact that the officials and agricultural working people of the farm did farming on a scientific and technical basis as required by the chuche farming method to boost the grain production under an unusually unfavourable weather condition.

He gave highly important teachings which would serve as a guideline in doing farming better next year by making preparations for it substantially from now.

Saying one of important ways of increasing grain production today when the mechanization, irrigation and widespread use of agricultural chemicals have reached a high level in our agriculture is to raise the fertility of soil, he taught that this work should be pressed forward as an all-people movement.

President Kim Il-song said that for a better farming next year, fertilizers, vinyl chloride sheets and other farming materials should be produced and supplied sufficiently and preparations for placing all farm work including nursing of seedlings and rice transplanting on a scientific and technical basis should be made in advance under a far-reaching plan.

He gave instructions to further increase vegetable production.

He taught that more vegetable green houses should be built on cooperative farms in Kangdong County and other parts around Pyongyang Municipality to provide the citizens with fresh vegetables in all seasons.

Daily Stresses Central Position of Masses

SK2111122890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—To develop the revolutionary theory and work out strategy and tactics on the basis of the chuche idea means clarifying the principle and law of the revolutionary movement and the orientation of its development by placing the popular masses, the masters of the revolution and construction, in the centre, stresses NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

The author of the article says:

The strategy and tactics of our revolution are shaped on the basis of the fundamental principles of the chuche idea which correctly expounds the decisive role played by the working masses in the revolutionary struggle.

The strategy and tactics of the revolution based on the role of the popular masses, first of all, make it possible to set the fighting goal of the revolution and construction most correctly to suit the aspiration of the popular masses and the degree of the preparedness of the revolutionary forces.

In the revolutionary struggle of the working class it is possible to successfully fulfil the main tasks arising in each stage of the revolution and ensure an overall upsurge of the revolution only when a correct strategic goal of the revolution is set. Therefore, it is the starting point in working out the strategy and tactics to correctly set the goal of struggle.

The strategy and tactics of the revolution based on the role of the popular masses also make it possible to firmly build up the internal revolutionary forces by rallying all the classes and strata interested in the revolution on its side and isolate and weaken the counterrevolutionary forces to the utmost.

Revolution can be led to victory only when the popular masses are actively mobilised and united. It is, therefore, one of the most important problems arising in shaping strategy and tactics to guarantee a decisive superiority of the revolutionary forces to the counterrevolutionary forces by uniting the broad masses in the revolutionary ranks.

The revolutionary strategy and tactics based on the role of the popular masses make it possible to define the form and method of the revolutionary struggle with emphasis on the degree of the consciousness and organisation of the popular masses and choose the time for a revolutionary struggle suitable to the degree of preparedness of the internal revolutionary forces.

It is very important in any revolutionary struggle to choose the time.

Failure and sacrifices are unavoidable, and grave difficulties might crop up ahead of the struggle, if a wrong time is chosen for the revolution.

The Korean people are now accelerating the noble historic advancement for the realisation of the independence of the working masses, holding fast to the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, as the main strategic line of socialist construction.

August 3 Mass Consumer Goods Production Increases

SK2111125190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1008 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA) - The production of August 3 mass consumption goods is increasing in Korea.

Those goods are daily necessities made with the effective use of by-products and wastes from industrial establishments and local raw and other materials.

A drive for the production of August 3 mass consumption goods began after dear Comrade Kim Chong-il on August 3, 1984, indicated ways of producing daily necessities in large quantities by tapping and mobilizing inner reserves and potentialities.

The drive is showing ever greater vitality as time flows.

The provincial direct sales stores and shops are stacked with August 3 mass consumption goods to be alive with customers.

After Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a letter to the participants in the national conference of light industry in early June, this drive has gained further momentum and many new goods have been developed and their output has shot up.

In Pyongyang Municipality, the output value jumped 12 percent in the past five months since the conference up on the corresponding period last year. And the production plan was topped 34 percent in the third quarter of the year.

Pyongchon District, Pyongyang Municipality, has increased the variety of goods to more than 8,000 kinds and Tongdaewon District to over 6,000 and Mangyongdae District lifted it by 1,690 in the past three months as against the same period last year.

North Hamgyong Province has carried out its assignments for the production of August 3 mass consumption goods set 30 percent higher than last year at 106.7 percent on a monthly average. It has increased the consumer goods production bases by 180 and their variety by more than 2,000 kinds in comparison with the same period last year while markedly improving their quality.

The variety of consumer goods has grown 20 percent in the third quarter of the year above the corresponding period last year in Tokchon City, South Pyongan Province, Sinpo City, South Hamgyong Province, Songrim City and Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, and many other cities and counties.

The August 3 mass consumption goods including various kinds of fibre products, daily necessities, electronic and [word indistinct] appliances, articles for cultural use, kitchen utensils products and crafts which are produced now are popular with the people for their wide variety and high quality.

Annual Accounting, Income Distribution Reported

SK2111125090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—The year-end account settlement and income distribution has begun in the Korean countryside where a bumper harvest has visited.

A meeting for the year-end account settlement and income distribution was held Tuesday at the Nongpo

Cooperative Farm in Saebyol County, North Hamgyong Province, the northernmost part of Korea.

This farm properly selected seeds on the principle of the right crop to the right soil and the right crop in the right time, finished rice-transplanting and the transplanting of humus-potted maize seedlings earlier than last year and did farming on a scientific and technical basis as required by the chuche farming method, thus gathering in bumper crops.

As a result, the farm overfulfilled this year's assignment 3.2 percent in grain, 1.6 percent in vegetable and 6 percent in meat.

A large amount of crops and cashes were distributed to each household that day.

Daily Marks Kim Il-song Work on Literature, Art

SK2711113490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 27 Nov 90

["Program of Literature and Art Indicates Most Correct Way To Create Works Based on Socialist Reality"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a by-lined article to the 30th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Create Literature and Art Suitable to the Chollima Age" (Nov. 27, 1960), an immortal classic work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The historic work is a guiding compass which newly indicates the way of socialist and communist literary and art construction after the establishment of the socialist system.

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"All works of literature and art should, after all, serve to teach our people of today how to live, work and struggle. That is why writers and artists should pay more attention to contemporary realities than to the past. The more closely a work portrays actual life, the more valuable it can be."

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, on the basis of his deep insight into the position and role of those works based on reality in the socialist construction and the creation of works of literature and art, into actual situation of literature and art, elucidated in a unique way theoretical and practical questions arising in the creation of the works based on the socialist reality.

The work comprehensively made clear theoretical and practical matters arising in the creation of works of literature and art reflecting the reality of the Chollima age—the question of actively finding out diverse subjects in reality and correctly resolving them from the viewpoint of the party policy, the question arising in creating the characteristics and model of the Chollima riders, the heroes of the age, the question of thoroughly embodying the spirit of the age, the question of directing efforts to the cinematic art, a powerful means of mass education and of creating songs suitable to the desire of the age and the ideological sentiment of the people and the question of going deep into the reality to gain experience in life.

The work serves an immortal banner which made a breakthrough in creating the works based on the socialist reality and brought about a grand revolutionary turn.

Under the leadership of our party our literature and art brought about a new turn in its development in the 1960s, ushered in a grand heyday in the 1970s and made a remarkable progress in the 1980s.

One of the achievements made in embodying the great leader President Kim Il-song's chuche-based idea of literature and art under the guidance of our party is the successful solution of the question of reflecting the socialist reality, which helped our literature and art serve as a powerful weapon in accelerating the revolution and construction.

Other achievement is that the heroes of the age who push ahead with the revolution and construction, genuine human models of chuche type, have been created and the revolution in all art forms including film and music has been stepped up and the might of the chuche-based literature and art demonstrated.

Model Work Units Awarded Red Banners

SK2311054690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean GMT 2100 17 Nov 90

[Text] The decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee [CPC]:

Concerning conferment of double red banners of the three revolutions and the red banner of the three revolutions on model units:

The DPRK CPC awards the double red banner of the three revolutions and the red banner of the three revolutions to the units which have been nurtured as groups loyal to the party and to the revolution by highly upholding the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—amid practical struggle to accomplish the party's lines and policies, which established organization in life and production and contributed to accelerating the socialist construction by vigorously waging the movement to create the speed of the nineties and by carrying out the assigned revolutionary tasks in an exemplary manner as follows:

The double red banner of the three revolutions:

The first operation work team in the youth workshop of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex; the second-shift rolled steel work team of the thin plate workshop in the Hwanghae Iron Complex; the roller work team of the disabled veterans plastic necessities plant in Chongjin, North Hwanghae Province; the first farming work team of the Munhwa cooperative farm in Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province; the stud work team of Panmunjom cooperative farm, Kaesong City; Chonjin train inspection company of the Chongjin passenger car unit in the Northern Railway General Bureau of the Ministry of Railways.

The red banner of the three revolutions:

The strip mine tunneling company of Toksan mine in Kangdong District mine complex; the processing work team of the engineer workshop in Pyongyang Tobacco Company; the second youth tobacco work team in the Munung tobacco farm of Pyongyang Tobacco Company; the printing work team of the packing material workship in Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Plant; the processing work team of Pyongyang Tudan (?toy) plant; the hatchery work team of Pyongyang Hadan chicken plant; the second work team of Chosanjong cooperative farm in Yokpo District of Pyongyang; the resuscitation section in Pyongyang Cheil Hospital; the Ansan general clinic in Pyongchon District in Pyongyang; the French class in the Third Department of the Pyongyang Foreign Language Institute; the first mining company, sixth pit, Sochang Youth Mine, Tokchon Mine Complex; the pipe-manufacturing company of mine construction office in Tokchon District mine complex; the coal-ming platoon, the first pit of Woni mine in Kaechon District mine complex; the cast steel work team in cast steel workshop of mining facilities repair office in Kaechon District mine complex; the high-speed tunneling platoon of second pit in Chaeam mine of Pukchang Thermal Power Complex; the geological survey team of Yongdae mine in Yongdae Oval Coal Briquettes Complex; the fifth work team in pipe-manufacturing workshop of first construction office in Chemical Plant Construction Complex; the (?concrete-mixting) work team in industrial workshop of construction office of the 32nd Chemircal Plant in Northern Industrial Construction Complex; the processing work team in engineering workshop of Yongwon mine; the locomotive work team in transportation workshop of Changsan mine; the third work team in first workshop of Kaechon export clothes plant; the first production work team in Tokchon chicken plant in South Pyongan Province; the first sewing work team in Taedong clothes plant in Taedong county, South Pyongan Province; the (?squeezing) work team of Pyongwon edible rice oil plant in Pyongwon country of South Pyongan Province; the repair work team in Taehung farming machine workshop in Taehung county of South Pyongan Province; the beverage work team in Sukchong county food plant of South Pyongan Province; the maritime work team in the fourth workshop of the construction office for 21 February plant in Chollima Steel Complex; the processing work team in the engineering workshop of Kangson industrial construciton office; the 6 October ship in the second fleet of Nampo Fishery Complex; the shoe-making work team in the disabled veterans shoes plant in Nampo; the breeding work team in second workshop of Kangso pig plant in Nampo; the fabric technical preparation shop in technical section of Sinuiju spinning plant; The processing work team in engineering workshop in Sonchon tobacco plant in North Pyongan Province; the 11th work team in the sock workshop of Yongchon county sock plant in North Pyongan Province; the roller work team in Cheyong disabled veterans plastic necessities plant in Cheyong county, South Hwanghae Province; the grain mobilization unit in Anak county grain administration office in South Hwanghae Province; the first work team of Anak county disabled veterans plastic necessities plant in South Hwanghae Province; the 11th work team of Kwangchon cooperative farm in Kangnyong county, South Hwanghae Province; the vegetables work team of Sowon cooperative farm in Sinchon county, South Hwanghae Province; the second pipe-manufacturing work team in the cement facilities assembling unit of 8 Feburary Cement Complex; the first platoon of Namsan pit in 8 November mine, North Hwanghae Province; the soy sauce seasoning work team of the soy sauce plant in Hwangju county, North Hwanghae Province; the spinning work team in Koksan spinning plant in Koksan country, North Hwanghae Province; the literary class in the language department at Sariwon College; the printing work team of the school supplies workshop at Kanggye paper plant, Chagang Province; the fifth work team of state-run 21 September farm in Chagang Province; the chemical work team in chemical sub-plant in Wonsan shipyard; the first company of Hwara mine, Kangwon Province; the women and children's clohing plant in Ichon county, Kangwon Province; the second sewing work team in Tongchon clothes plant in Tongchon county, Kangwon Province; the agricultural chemistry department in Wonsan Agricultural College; the third work team of the second furnace in Kimchaek Iron Complex; the second melting work team of first steel workshop in Kimchaek Iron Complex; the third work team in the truck workshop of construction office for the 24th metallurgical plant; the vinyl work team of internal (?fabrics) in Chongjin chemical fiber complex; the Chongbong-ho ship of Kimchaek fishery office; the equipment work team in equipment workshop in Chongjin repair plant; the third work team in Chongjin paintings plant in North Hamgyong Province; the assembling work team in daily necessities workshop of Kyongsong forest office in North Hamgyong Province; the chemical company, Chongjin geological laboratory in North Hamgyong Province; the first work team of the telegraphic workshop in the North Hamgyong Provincial telephone and telegraphic office; the breeding work team in state-run Nanam orchard; the motor repair work team in engineering workshop in Puraesan mine, 8 February Vinalon Complex; the (?daily-operational) work team of the 73d pit in Tanchon District mine bureau; the pharmaceutical store in the Kowon mine, South Hamgyong Province; the electric appliances repair work team in the ship repair workshop in South Hamgyong Samho Fishery Office; the third work team in third workshop in Hamhung working-clothes plant; the second work team of the first workshop in Sinpo maritime breeding office in South Hamgyong Province; the fishing work team in Uganjin fishing cooperation in Hongwon county, South Hamgyong

Province; the irrigation work team in Yodok irrigation office, Yodok county, South Hamgyong Province; the (?drawing) section, South Hamgyong Provincial Art Creation House; the repair platoon of transportation workshop in Unung mine of Yangang Provincial mine complex; the first work team in Sinsong workshop of Nodan youth forest office in Yangang Province; the survey company in Paekam geological survey unit of Yangang Province; the soy work team in Kapsan soy sauce plant in Kapsan county, Yangang Province; the second agricultural production work team in industrial corporation in Kim Hyong-chik county in Yangang Province; the second class of seniors in the mathematics department at Kim Chong-suk College of Education; the second work team in Kaesong (?edible oil) processing plant; the rolled steel work team of Sambong rolling stock parts repair plant of Sambong railway management bureau; the Yupyong railway hospital, Hyesan railway management bureau of the Northern Railway General Bureau under the Ministry of Railway; the third company of the first grain transportation mobilization unit in the grain administration bureau and the (?pharmaceutical) section at Pyongyang Medical College.

The DPRK CPC

[Dated] 14 November 1990, Pyongyang

South Korea

North, South Announce Delegates to Sports Talks

SK2811022190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] Chang Chung-sik, vice president of the Korea National Olympic Committee, will head a five-member delegation to the South-North sports talks that will resume in Panmunjom on Friday, it was announced yesterday.

According to the announcement made by Kim Chong-yol, president of the Korea Amateur Sports Association, other members of the South Korean delegation are Yi Hak-nae, Im Tae-sun, Kim Sa-hung and Pak Su-chang.

Kim forwarded the names of delegation members to his North Korean counterpart Kim Yu-sun yesterday.

In the meantime, North Korea also announced yesterday that Kim Hyong-chin, vice president of its National Olympic Committee, will head its delegation to the sports talks.

Other members of the North Korean delegation are Chang Ung, Kim Chong-sik, Kim Sang-pu and Kim Yong-sik, according to the announcement.

In the coming talks, the two sides are expected to focus on the formation of joint teams to the 41st World Ping Pong Championship, the Barcelona Olympics and the third Winter Asian Games to be held in Samjiyon, North Korea.

Other matters such as making the South-North unification soccer matches an annual event and expanding other sports exchanges between the two Koreas will also be discussed in the Friday's talks.

Sports Talks End Without Accord

SK2911062790 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] In the first round of the North-South sports talks held at 1000 this morning in Tongilgak in the North side area of Panmunjom, the North side avoided discussing the question of participation of a single team in various international games, the question of regularly holding soccer games for reunification, and the question of North-South sports exchanges. Instead, the North side repeatedly demanded that the 10 basic points, which were agreed upon in the sports talks held before the Beijing Asian games be revised.

Kim Hyong-chin, the North side's chief delegate, revealed the following principles that today's talks should be held on the principle of avoiding North-South confrontation and of promoting national reconciliation and reunification; that a single team should be formed to participate in various international games; and that the question of forming a single team should not be suspended.

At the talks, he, however, thoroughly avoided discussing the questions of actual sports exchanges, including the question of regularly holding soccer games for reunification, which Chang Chung-sik, our side's chief delegate, proposed.

Saying that a warm relationship among fellow countrymen should be forged through North-South reunification soccer games—like those games which were held in Pyongyang and in Seoul alternatively—delegate Chang proposed that the question of regularly holding North-South soccer games for reunification, the question of realizing North-South sports exchanges, and the question of forming a single team to participate in international games be discussed.

However, saying that the question of regularly holding soccer games for reunification is not as important as the question of participation of a single team in various international games, the North side delegate claimed that the former be discussed after settling the latter.

The talks ended at 1216 without narrowing the differences of views. Our side proposed that the next talks be held on 15 January 1991, but the North side proposed that talks be held within next month.

It was agreed to decide the date of the next talks at a later date.

N. Korea Reported To Suffer From Oil Shortage

SK2911044890 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1500 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Report by correspondent Yi Yun-song from Tokyo]

[Text] It has been learned that the Soviet's cutback of oil supply and the prolongation of the Persian Gulf situation is rapidly deteriorating the situation of gasoline and transportation in North Korea. The compatriots affiliated with Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] who have recently been to North Korea said that they could well perceive, by such means as visits to relatives, that the North Korean residents were having considerable difficulty in the supply of electricity and apartment heating. TONGIL ILBO dated 26 November reported that the Samjiyon, the North Korean ship which regularly shuttles between Wonsan and Niigata to transport Chongnyon people, postponed its departure from Wonsan for two days without prior notice because of the shortage of fuel resulting from the Soviet's cutback of oil supply .

Kim Tae-chung Offers To Visit Pyongyang in 1991

SK2311055190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0505 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung offered Friday to visit North Korea next year if "the visit would be helpful for national reconciliation and reunification."

Kim, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said he would send delegates to Pyongyang next spring to discuss pending issues with North Korea before his visit and would fully consult the government on the trips.

Addressing the National Assembly, he proposed forming a "pan-national council for national reunification" to discuss unification formulas, including the one suggested by President No Tae-u based on the Korean community theory and the PPD's federation of republics formula. One or more should then be put to a national referendum so the people can choose South Korea's formula for unification, he said.

Kim said German-style unification cannot be applied to Korea because there is mistrust and antagonism between the two sides.

On Korea's entry into the United Nations, Kim said it barely mattered how it was achieved so long as both sides were in agreement. The opposition leader said he rejected North Korea's claim that simultaneous entry of South and North would perpetuate division of the Korean peninsula and opposed South Korea's plan to join the world body unilaterally because of its disastrous impact on inter-Korean relations.

Kim said the third meeting of the South and North Korean prime ministers on Dec. 11 will be an important occasion and will decide the future of bilateral relations. "In order for the talks to be a success, North Korea should accept South Korea's call for all-out exchange between the two sides as much as possible and the South should accept the North's proposal for adoption of a nonaggression declaration," he said.

On No's visit to Moscow next month, Kim said No should call the Soviet Government to account the 1983 downing of a Korean airliner and request an apology and compensation for the loss of life. All 269 people aboard Flight 007 died Sept. 1, when it was shot down by a Soviet warplane.

The top opposition politician said he does not oppose No's trip to the Soviet Union but cannot understand why the government is in such haste when there are so many problems to be resolved at home. An excessively fast approach to Moscow may have an adverse effect on inter-Korean relations, he warned.

Friendly relations with the United States should be maintained, Kim said, but the government should firmly resist Washington's "unreasonable demand" for Korea to share the defense burden and its refusal to give Korea jurisdiction over American military personnel in Korea.

He also called for the government to take a firm stand against "unrealistic pressure" to open Korea's agricultural market. He said the PPD firmly opposed the government's plan to scrap the "dual price system" for rice and the "reckless plan" to reduce the number of farmers from 8 million to 2 million.

Customs Official Reports Recent N-S Exchanges

SK2111075890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—There were 351 personnel exchanges between South and North Korea in the first nine months of the year, in contrast with last year's one, the Customs Administration commissioner said Wednesday.

In a report to the National Assembly Committee of Finance Affairs, he said trade between South and North fell to 7.364 million U.S. dollars during the nine months from 18.655 million dollars last year.

He said 14,565 Korean-Chinese visited Korea in January-September, compared with 8,907 in 1989, and 2,077 in 1988.

Justice Minister Views North Defector Law

SK2211090890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—Of more concern than South Korea's National Security Law, which is necessary as long as North Korea harbors ambitions to invade, is a North Korean law that punishes defectors to

South Korea as traitors and the 150,000 political prisoners in the North, Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam said Thursday.

Yi said North Korean leader Kim Il-song had not lost hope of ruling the South since he began the Korean War in 1950. "Without the National Security Law, we cannot punish people who establish communist governments in South Korea," he told 300 leaders of Mindan, a pro-Seoul organization of Koreans in Japan.

North Korea is both an invader and a partner in dialogue and exchange for unification of the divided country, and because the national security law deals with North Korea as an invader it has nothing to do with cooperation and exchange, he said.

North Korea persistently demands that South Korea repeal the law and release South Koreans who are in prison for visiting the North without government permission, but Yi said this was an internal affair that was unrelated to inter-Korean exchange.

Turning to life in Japanese society, Yi said he will demand an improvement in the status of Koreans during the Korea-Japan ministerial conference in Seoul next week.

Dissidents May Be Charged for Contact With North

SK2211024390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0155 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—Three South Korean dissidents who went ahead and met with a North Korean representative and Korean expatriates abroad after the government denied permission for the encounter may be charged under the special law on inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation.

Choe Pyong-po, spokesman of the National Unification Board, said Wednesday the government rejected their application to discuss unification of the Korean peninsula with Koreans from North Korea and abroad and then warned them they would be dealt with under a pertinent law if they went through with the meeting.

The three are Cho Yong-sol, co-chairman of the southern headquarters of the pan-national rally, Cho Song-u, secretary-general of the group, and Yi Hae-hak, chairman of the unification committee of Chonminnyon (the National Alliance of Democratic Movements).

The meeting, on Monday and Tuesday in Berlin, was attended by Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the northern headquarters of the pan-national rally, and five overseas Koreans.

Choe said negotiations on unification, which could determinate the fate of the nation, should be the sole province of the National Assembly and the government, and private contact with North Korea would hamper the government's effort to improve inter-Korean relations.

A government official said the three should be dealt with under the law on inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation, which carries a maximum jail term of three years or a 10 million won fine.

Japanese Cabinet Ministers Arrive for Meeting

OW2511120290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Seoul, Nov. 25 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and six other cabinet ministers arrived in Seoul on Sunday for talks with their South Korean counterparts.

The regular Japan-South Korea ministerial conference, which opens Monday, will focus on such major issues as the legal status of Korean residents of Japan, trade friction between the two countries, and the transfer of high technology to South Korea, Japanese officials said.

The two-day meeting is the first of its kind since one in Tokyo in December 1986.

In addition to Nakayama, Japanese delegates include Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama, and International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto. [passage omitted]

Transport Ministers Hold Talks

OW2611143990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 KYODO—Transport ministers from Japan and South Korea traded requests Monday on a number of bilateral transportation issues during the first day of multi-faceted ministerial talks here, Japanese officials said.

Japanese Transport Minister Akira Ono expressed Japan's readiness to cooperate with South Korean plans for a high speed railway line between Seoul and Pusan and a new Seoul international airport project explained by South Korean Transportation Minister Kim Chang-sik. Japan is one of the major contenders for the high speed railway, along with France and Germany.

Kim, in turn, requested that South Korean firms be given a priority allotment of slots upon completion of the second phase of construction at New Tokyo International Airport at Narita outside Tokyo, at the New Kansai International Airport under construction in Osaka Bay, or at airports in Nagoya or Fukuoka. Kim also asked that South Korean ships be allowed to pass through Japan's Setonaikai inland sea—between the main islands of Honshu and Shikoku—but Ono said Japan considers the inland sea a domestic waterway and does not recognize the passage of foreign ships there.

Ono called for cooperation in the promotion of tourism and person-to-person exchanges, especially of high school students from both nations on school excursions.

The ministers agreed to set up a working-level council to exchange information on land transportation in Japan and South Korea.

Sides To Bolster Economic Ties

OW2611142190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1338 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japanese and South Korean economic ministers agreed Monday to strengthen bilateral economic ties, Japanese officials said. The ministers agreed to hold regular talks on economic policies and to support each other in international negotiations.

The ministers met on the opening day of a Japanese-South Korean ministerial conference, the 15th of its kind.

South Korean Minister of Trade and Industry Pak Pil-su urged Japan to boost imports from South Korea in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Kabun Muto. Muto suggested the two countries make efforts by exchanging economic missions, the officials said, and added that Japan will accept agricultural trainees from South Korea. The two ministers also agreed to set up a center for economic internationalization this year in Seoul. The center is to provide information about Japan for Korean companies seeking business opportunities, according to the officials.

Tomio Yamamoto, the Japanese agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister, and his counterpart, Cho Kyong-sik, agreed to cooperate in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks as countries protecting their agricultural markets. Both nations have come under pressure to open their markets to rice imports. Agriculture is the pivotal issue in the Uruguay Round trade talks, which are scheduled to to be concluded in early December.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, in a meeting with South Korean Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui, expressed his gratitude for Seoul's support at the spring recent meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). South Korea supported Japan's successful effort to increase its share of the IMF's capitalization—and its voting rights—from fifth to second place.

Hashimoto said the two countries should cooperate in international meetings, as they are often the only participants from Asia.

News Conference Ends Ministerial

SK2711072090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will closely consult each other on jointly entering the Chinese and East-bloc markets, Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung said Tuesday. In a news conference wrapping up the day-and-a-half Korea-Japan ministerial conference, Choe said, "Japan will make close consultation with us, particularly concerning its economic cooperation with the Soviet Union."

He said Tokyo had promised to consult with Seoul on improving relations with North Korea, sharing the view that peace and security on the Korean peninsula are vital for stability in Northeast Asia.

As a result of the conference, the first in four years, resident Koreans in Japan will be "freed from the bondage of fingerprinting, a symbol of (Japan's) discrimination against foreigners, in the near future," Choe said. Resident Koreans in Japan demand equal treatment as Japanese, contending that they were taken there against their will. Choe and his Japanese counterpart, Taro Nakayama, agreed on Monday to exempt all Koreans living in Japan from fingerprinting, a must for foreigners under the Alien Registration Law, "as early as possible." Nakayama gave a vaguely worded commitment Monday, saying Koreans would be exempt "from the time Japan develops an alternative to fingerprinting."

The conference was attended by seven cabinet ministers, a vice minister and each other's ambassador. The two sides agreed to hold the 16th conference in Tokyo next year. Most of the Japanese delegates were to return home Tuesday afternoon, after giving a news conference.

Premier Kaifu To Meet With No Tae-u 9 Jan

OW2611152790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will visit Seoul on January 9 for talks with South Korean President No Tae-u, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Monday.

Nakayama told Japanese reporters that Kaifu will stay in South Korea for three days. Nakayama and six other Japanese cabinet members are now in Seoul for a two-day ministerial meeting with their South Korean counterparts. In Seoul, Kaifu is expected to brief No on Japan's position in talks with North Korea aimed at establishing diplomatic ties.

After returning from South Korea, the prime minister is planning to leave Tokyo again on January 13 for a tour of the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, Japanese sources said. He visited Indonesia earlier this year.

Defense Minister To Meet Japan Defense Chief

SK2811120590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1121 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—Yoozo Ishikawa, director-general of Japan's Defense Agency, will make an official visit to Seoul from Dec. 7 through Dec. 9 at the invitation of South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku.

Ishikawa, will be the first Defense Agency director-general to make an official trip to South Korea, even though he is not the first top defense official of Japan to visit Seoul. In July 1979, then-director-general Yamashita was in Seoul but it was an unofficial trip.

He will have fact-finding trips to front-line military units and the truce village of Panmunjom and discuss with Minister Yi matters of common concern, including ways to promote cooperation in the military field, informed sources said.

USSR's Medvedev Addresses Seoul Students

SK2811031990 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 25 Nov 90 p 18

[Report on Soviet Presidential Council member Vadim Medevev's 22 November lecture at Seoul National University by Kim In-kwang: "Korean Students Are More Ideological Than Soviets"]

[Text] At around 1520 on 22 November, Soviet Presidential Council member Vadim Medvedev gave a lecture entitled "The Philosophy of Perestroyka" at Seoul National University.

About 500 students and professors packed the unheated auditorium of the University's Culture Hall. They applauded Medvedev, whose reputation is that of core theoretician of the Soviet Communist Party and ideological supporter of perestroyka, who arrived 50 minutes late.

To save time, a Soviet translator read a transcript of Medvedev's lecture. Afterward, answering students' questions, Medvedev said: "It is our belief that the Communist Party's monopoly on power and violence employed by a Stalinist state cannot build socialism. Perestroyka is the product of a painful Soviet history that has continued for 70 years."

He talked about the Soviet Union's desire for reform in a voice that oozed faith. Saying that "goals unaccompanied by appropriate means, however noble they may be, will not be achieved," Medvedev explained that nothing short of introduction of a market economy or competition can overcome the backwardness of the Soviet economy and give full play to production potential.

Touching on Marxism, the theory that has been the Soviet Union's governing ideology, Medvedev said: "In our society, books written by Marx and Engels once were regarded as the Bible, the source of all theories. Great thoughts must always softly respond to the particular requirements of the people at all times instead of becoming rigid dogma."

Stressing peaceful coexistence between systems, Medvedev said: "The economic system run under the parliamentarian political institutions, which has been harnessed in societies of bourgeois citizens, should be accepted as the property of human civilization. This being the case, the market economy should never be regarded only as a means of exploitation."

After about a 40-minute lecture, students flooded him with questions. Their enthusiasm was such that dozens of students raised their hands at the same time. Students appeared to be eager to hear Medvedev explain his critical view of socialism and the nature of perestroyka, which they already had heard through various channels.

In their questions, however, the students appeared to be more ideological than Medvedev, himself an orthodox Marxist-Leninist.

[Question] Isn't the point of view that society can be reformed through class paradox and struggle a renunciation of socialism?

[Answer] Devotion to the development of history and trust in people, teachings left behind by Marxism-Leninism, still remain with us. Nevertheless, we should not regard the conflicts between classes as something absolute or the confrontation between capitalism and socialism as intransigent.

[Question] Isn't talking about coexistence between systems or about peace a repudiation of proletarian internationalism? Perestroyka is a betrayal to proletarian internationalism.

[Answer] Time has changed. The Soviet Union can no longer adhere to proletarian internationalism. Mankind's universal values take precedence over such things.

[Question] After perestroyka was put in motion in the Soviet Union, the communist regimes in East Europe collapsed one after another. With that, Soviet influence has waned greatly. As a result, the Soviet Union can no longer play the role of world police together with the United States.

[Answer] We do not think of playing the role of a global police.

[Question] By perestroyka, do you mean to reform socialism or do you mean to take the capitalist road?

[Answer] The philosophy of perestroyka stands outside the realm of dichotomous choice between capitalism and socialism. What we insist on is that each nation and each people should choose a most appropriate way of developing society.

While the students expressed their faith in socialism's effectiveness in their questions, Medvedev gave them one iconoclastic answer after another, which was contrary to their expectation. When asked, "What do you think of the fact that the Korean regime attempts to prolong its stay in power with its northern policy, taking advantage of the Soviet Union's perestroyka," Medvedev answered: "Had it not been for perestroyka, I would not be here meeting with you."

Medvedev remarked as he left Seoul National University after his lecture: "Students all over are radical and hot tempered. The Korean students are more ideological than ones back home."

Medvedev Remarks on Arms Control in Korea

SK2411064590 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 Nov 90 p 2

[Article by reporter O Tae-kyu: "An Attempt to Keep the Balance of Military Forces in the Far East—What Does Medvedev's Call for Arms Control on the Korean Peninsula Means?"]

[Text] The speech by Medvedev, member of the Soviet Presidential Council, delivered at a meeting arranged by the Korea-USSR Economic Association on 22 November, can be seen as an indication of how the Soviet Union will deal with the issue of military alliances, including the ROK-U.S. military alliance; Soviet-U.S. relations; and Soviet relations with the North and South, in the Far East and on the Korean peninsula.

Given the fact that he came to Korea as Soviet President Gorbachev's special envoy with the mission of inviting President No to visit the Soviet Union, what Medvedev said in his speech seems to be a multi-purpose attempt to pave the way for a ROK-USSR summit meeting scheduled for next month.

Since Medvedev is a man of enormous influence, known to be the third most powerful official in the Soviet Union, and since he did not deny the fact that what he said in his speech reflects the Soviet government's official stand, his speech is likely to be the standard to measure the Soviet Union's future policy toward the Korean peninsula.

What stands out in his speech are his comments on the military alliances in the Far East, including the ROK-U.S. military alliance.

Medvedev said that "a full-scale settlement of the Korean peninsula question is most crucial for guaranteeing peace, security, and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The presence of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in the southern part of the Korean peninsula makes the situation more serious." In other words, he made it clear that a full-scale settlement of the Korean peninsula question can be made only through the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons.

For the record, the Soviet Union has never officially called for complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea. For this reason, even radical scholars have only guessed that the Soviet Union's official stand on U.S. troops stationed in Korea will be "the stationing in Korea of U.S. troops in reduced form."

Since it was according to ROK-U.S. security treaty that U.S. troops were stationed in Korea, a Soviet call for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops can be seen as being aimed at breaking up the ROK-U.S. military alliance. Reversely, it can also be interpreted, observers pointed out, as an indication that the Soviet Union may go to the length of revoking its friendship treaty with North Korea.

In the issue of nuclear weapons, Medvedev called on the United States to withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea, arguing that the Soviet Union has been studying plans to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. Judging from this, it seems that the issue of withdrawing U.S. troops and nuclear weapons is likely to create sharp differences in the opinions of the United States and the Soviet Union on their respective policy toward the Korean peninsula, not to mention the fact that it will force a readjustment in the ROK-U.S. treaty of mutual defense.

Since Gorbachev took office, the Soviet Union has exerted substantial effort to hold hegemony over the Asia-Pacific region through Gorbachev's declaration in Vladivostok in 1986 and Krasnoyarsk in 1988.

Seen in this light, Medvedev's call for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea can be interpreted as a signal that the Soviet Union has earnestly begun a diplomatic offensive against the United States to pave the way for its becoming a major Asia-Pacific power. In other words, the Soviet Union may be said to have embarked upon the road of putting itself on an equal footing with the United States which has been playing the role of a "supreme ruler" in this region while maintaining its superior military power in this region.

What merits our attention in this regard is what kind of role Sokolov, the man the Soviet Union has internally named as the first Soviet ambassador to Korea, will play.

The unanimous observation of the government authorities and experts is that Sokolov, who was named Soviet ambassador to the Philippines in 1987 in preparation for U.S.-Philippines negotiations over the return of U.S. military bases to the Philippines and has since remained in that post, is expected, as the first Soviet ambassador to Korea, to exert powerful influence over the issue of withdrawing U.S. troops from South Korea. What is more, the appointment of Sokolov as Soviet ambassador to Korea is reported to have irritated U.S. nerves.

When it comes to its relations with the North and South, the Soviet Union is expected to maintain an equidistance policy toward both sides and on this basis maintain a policy of treating them differently depending on the situation.

If Medvedev's words that "there are two independent governments, namely the ROK and the DPRK, on the Korean peninsula" means an expression of support for South Korea and of denial to North Korea's "policy of one Korea," his next remarks that "the Soviet Union supports North Korea's proposal for reducing arms of the South and North, pulling out foreign troops from the Korean Peninsula, and building mutual confidence," which made Soviet support of North Korea clear, means the opposite.

By saying that the "setting up of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union should also be seen, in a broader view, as part of efforts to foster cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region," Medvedev hinted that the Soviet Union puts particular stress not only on economic profits from its relations with Korea, but also on the political and security profits. In particular, he made clear Soviet support for North Korea's call for a solution to the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons and easing political and military tensions ahead of anything else by saying that "the Soviet Union will keep developing its traditional relations of friendship with North Korea and fully help North Korea achieve peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula through mutual cooperation in the international arena."

Medevedev's remarks as such have not only poured cold water on the rosy view held by some government officials who believed that the Soviet Union would unilaterally support the ROK concerning the Korean peninsula question after it established diplomatic relations with the ROK, but also warned the government that it should enforce its northern policy based on a more cool-headed view of the international situation.

'Impudent Remarks' Criticized

SK2411080190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Nov 90 p 2

[Reporter's Eye column—"Medvedev's Impudent Remarks" by Reporter Yi Chae-ho]

[Text] On 22 November, in a meeting with figures from all strata, including political and economic circles, Medvedev, member of the Soviet Presidential Council, on a visit to the ROK, comparatively expounded the Soviet position on the Korean peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region.

In a prepared address entitled "The Soviet Union's New Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region," he stressed that what the Soviet Union seeks is a nuclear-free peace zone and arms cuts in this region.

There was nothing new in the contents of his address. A nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula, the withdrawal of foreign forces, and the establishment of a multilateral consultative body for peace in the Asia-Pacific region have been included in the Soviet Union's policy toward the Korean peninsula ever since Gorbachev's declaration at Vladivostok in 1986. Arbatov, director of arms control in the Soviet Institute of World Economics and International Relations, who had visited the ROK in October at the invitation of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Security Affairs, stated the same demands.

A problem lies in his impudent and bold stand. He repeatedly stressed in his address the fact that the Soviet Union is abandoning the thought of a cold war and is newly seeking peace and cooperation. What he really said to us after all is that "the U.S. forces and the U.S. nuclear weapons should be withdrawn from the Korean peninsula."

He not only said that "the U.S. forces and the U.S. nuclear weapons in the South side of the Korean peninsula are further worsening the situation," but also that "the Soviet Union supports the North Korean proposal from May 1990 for withdrawing foreign forces from the Korean peninsula and for establishing trust." More severely speaking, in a single stroke he demanded before our country's figures from all strata that the ROK-U.S. military relations, which have been a basic frame for our security, whether good or bad, be rearranged.

Medvedev is not a scholar who visited the ROK with the intent of attending the meeting. He is what is called a diplomatic special envoy who carried the Soviet president's personal letter inviting the ROK president to the Soviet Union.

Then, have the ROK-Soviet relations really become close enough for a diplomatic envoy carrying a personal letter to discuss the withdrawal of the U.S. forces in Korea? Conversely, could a special envoy from our side visit the Soviet Union and demand that "the joint military exercises between the Soviet Union and North Korea be discontinued at once?"

The thought that someone can say whatever he wants because he is a Soviet and an aide to Gorbachev should not be overlooked. It is not because we do not dislike hearing about the withdrawal of the U.S. forces in Korea, but because it is a matter related to our self-respect.

Soviet Academic Says New Ties To Enhance Peace

SK2911101690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov.29 (YONHAP)—A leading Soviet academician on Thursday said that normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and Korea on September 30 would greatly contribute to peace and stability in Asia and the Pacific region as well as to the improvement of friendly ties between the two countries.

Vladlen Martynov, director of the Soviet Institute for World Economy and International Relation (IMEMO), said, "I think we were right in normalizing our relations with South Korea in view that South Korean leaders are evidently not intent on isolating North Korea."

The Soviet official made the remarks during a courtesy call on National Assembly speaker Pak Chun-kyu. Martinov, is now on an unofficial visit to Seoul at the invitation of Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal party (DLP). Martynov expressed regrets that North Korean leaders are still refusing to accomodate to "new thinking" proclaimed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Meanwhile, Pak assured Martynov that South Korea would certainly become one of the most reliable friends of the Soviet Union.

Choe Ho-chung Meets Visiting Soviet Official

SK2711121490 Seoul YONHAP in English 1035 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—The people of the Soviet Union fully support and highly regard the improving relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union, Vladlen Martynov, visiting director of the World Economy and International Relations Institute (IMEMO) said Tuesday.

Martynov, in meeting with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, said his country attaches great importance to a visit by foreign heads of state, referring to South Korean President No Tae-u's proposed trip to the Soviet Union sometime next month.

Choe said President No's visit to the Communist country will set grounds for greatly improving bilateral ties. The foreign minister also said the Seoul-Moscow ties were very highly evaluated at the just concluded Korea-Japan ministerial conference.

Seoul and Moscow established full diplomatic ties Sept. 30.

Daily Interviews Kazakh Leader on Economic Ties

SK2611084690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 25 Nov 90 p 2

[Interview with Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh Republic, by Kim Chu-il on the editorial staff of CHOSON ILBO—date and place not given]

[Text] [Kim] Mr. President, you are the first among the leaders of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union to visit Korea. You are known to be one of President Gorbachev's close associates. What is the purpose of your visit to Korea?

[Nazarbayev] The Soviet Union is now concentrating all its efforts on the transition from the central planning system to a market economy. The Kazakh Republic, which I head as its president, is doing the same. In order to make the transition to a market economy a successful undertaking, it is imperative for us to learn from a country that has very successfully realized a market economy in the shortest period of time. Korea is such a case in point. How can a blind man guide others? I came to Korea to see with my own eyes and learn ways of guiding the people in the Kazakh Republic on the road leading to a market economy.

When I said I was going to Korea, President Gorbachev jokingly said: "How can you go there ahead of me?" My idea was to visit Korea to strengthen economic cooperation at the earliest possible date.

[Kim] Do you have any particular plans for economic cooperation between the Kazakh Republic and Korea?

[Nazarbayev] My idea is that Korea can provide us with the technology necessary to produce consumer goods and that we can provide Korea with industrial materials in return. The Kazakh Republic is one of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union with the richest deposits of natural resources. It has inexhaustible deposits of such major natural resources as oil, coal, mineral, bauxite, tungsten, and nickel that are essential for industrial development. Along with technology, we also need capital from Korea. If a direct air route is opened between Seoul and Alma Ata, the capital city of the Kazakh Republic, the distance between Seoul and Alma Ata will become so short that it will take only four hours to fly from one place to another. With many Korean businesses showing interest in investing in the Kazakh Republic, I hope that they will be involved actively in investment and joint ventures. In particular, about 200,000 Koreans residing in our republic can provide extraordinary conditions for investment and joint ventures.

[Kim] Despite being in the middle of restructuring, the Soviet Union is now faced with extraordinarily serious economic difficulties. We hear endlessly that Gorbachev may be ousted.

[Nazarbayev] It is true that the Soviet Union is facing serious economic troubles. Soviet citizens can find only about 10 out of the 1,200 items of daily necessity in the stores without difficulty. Cigarettes and sugar are rationed. If, however, the Soviet citizens endure the difficulties a little longer, the crisis will, I believe, be overcome by the time the transition to a market economy, which is now underway, is completed. The Soviet Union is a country of enormous size. Abandoning its central planning economic system and moving toward a market economy is not an easy undertaking for a country as big as the Soviet Union. A few republics have already declared their independence, and still a few more are showing signs of following suit. Breaking away or declaring independence are not desirable for these republics if they want to overcome the economic difficulties. In my opinion, Gorbachev is the man the Soviet Union needs to overcome the current economic difficulties and to hold territorial integrity in place. That is why I trust him and support his policies. What I find most important of all is sovereignty over resources. I believe that each republic should recover the sovereign right over its natural resources. This takes on particular importance when it comes to our Kazakh Republic, which has deposits of rich natural resources. Attaining sovereign right over resources is particularly important for the Kazakh Republic, which plans to develop economic cooperation with foreign countries, including Korea.

[Kim] Ethnic Koreans in Central Asia, including those in the Kazakh Republic, are on the move to return to the Maritime Province to establish their own autonomous province or something like that. What is more, some even went so far as to suggest that the Koreans should get compensation in one form or another for the material and spiritual sufferings caused by Stalin's forced relocation policy. What do you think of this?

[Nazarbayev] The Kazakh Republic can hardly be said to have such ethnic strife or feuds. A multinational community has long been a tradition in our Kazakh Republic. As president of the Kazakh Republic, I pay a great deal of attention to ethnic problems and I do not distinguish one ethnic group from another when I name people to important government offices. A considerable number of Koreans in the Soviet Union occupy important government offices in various areas. Also, the Koreans who are reputed for being industrious are enjoying a relatively high standard of living. The Koreans in our republic are well off without any grievances. The ethnic strife in the neighboring Uzbek Republic may have prompted the Koreans to toy with the idea of returning to the Maritime Province. However, I have never heard of it in the Kazakh Republic.

As for compensation, were the Koreans the only ethnic group that suffered under Stalin's harsh suppression? The Germans, Tartars, and Ukrainians and virtually everyone suffered during that time. As many as 30 million people were sacrificed. President Gorbachev's father languished behind bars for eight years simply because he had hidden some food. I think those who call for compensation will hardly get an affirmative answer.

[Kim] Do you not have any intention to invite President No to visit Alma Ata during his Moscow visit? Also, because many Koreans live in Alma Ata, there is a strong possibility of discussing the establishment of a Korean consulate in Alma Ata.

[Nazarbayev] When I visit Chongwadae next Wednesday [28 November], I am going to politely and officially invite President No to visit Alma Ata during his Moscow visit. The Kazakh Republic can be an excellent partner to resource-poor Korea. In order to light the flames of economic cooperation between Kazakh and Korea, President No's visit to Alma Ata is absolutely necessary. I have already met with Ambassador Kong No-myong and discussed the issue of setting up a consulate. I plan to have a detailed discussion of it during my stay in Seoul.

Kazakh Leader Wants Improved Ties

SK2611084290 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 25 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] On 24 November, Nursultan (Abyseyevich) Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh Republic of the USSR who is on a visit to Korea, said he hoped that President No Tae-u would be able to visit the Kazakh Republic, where many ethnic Koreans live. He also said that he would officially invite President No during his scheduled visit to Chongwadae on 28 November.

In an interview with CHOSON ILBO on 24 November, President Nazarbayev said that since the ROK and Soviet Governments had already agreed in principle on opening a consulate in Alma Ata, he would discuss it in detail with the Korean Government officials during his stay in Seoul.

He explained that the Kazakh Republic, which sits in Central Asia of the Soviet Union, is home to the largest number of ethnic Koreans residing in the Soviet Union, with about 200,000 ethnic Koreans living in areas around its capital city Alma Ata. He said that his republic, with rich deposits of such major natural resources as oil, minerals, coal, bauxite, tungsten, and nickel, finds it inevitable to set up consular relations with the ROK if for no other reason than to strengthen the economic cooperation between the ROK and the USSR. These economic relations have become earnest in the wake of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

President Nazarbayev is also expected to discuss with the ROK officials during his stay in Seoul the issue of allowing passenger airplanes from both countries flying between Seoul and Moscow to go through Alma Ata. A high-ranking adviser to President Nazarbayev responsible for policy making said that the air route linking Seoul, Alma Ata, and Moscow will also go through Beijing airport in China. Toward this end, the Kazakh Republic had completed discussions with the Beijing authorities on opening the air route between Alma Ata and Beijing.

USSR Begins Clearing Unsettled Import Debts

SK2611082090 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 26 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Korea's trade with the Soviet Union will become brisk again shortly as the Soviet Union reportedly began clearing unsettled payments for imports from Korean firms, trading business sources said.

Of the $45 million unsettled payments due from the Soviet Union, about 24.5 percent were settled by the Soviet side.

Pohang Iron & Steel Co. (POSCO) on Oct. 29 received $22 million out of its unsettled payments totaling $29 million for its exports of cold-rolled steel sheets, the sources said.

The Soviet side also began paying part of the unsettled payments of some $15 million to Hyundai Corp., Daewoo Corp. and Lucky- Goldstar International Corp.

The Soviet side also reportedly pledged to clear the remaining unsettled payments of $7 million for POSCO within November.

As for $4 million in unsettlement payments for electronic products and consumer goods exported by Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., the Soviet side paid $2.5 million to Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. as of end of October.

The Soviet side reportedly is moving to expedite early settlements of $7 million for Hyundai Corp. and $2 million for Daewoo Corp., encouraged by improved foreign exchange situations deriving from about $4 billion economic aid from Germany and European countries and rising oil and gold prices, the sources said.

Relieved from uncertainty about unsettled payments, POSCO is promoting a plan to export cold-rolled steel sheets to the Soviet Union in return for the import of hot coils from the Soviet Union, POSCO reportedly has concluded a barter trade contract with Novolipetsk steel mill of the Soviet Union to export 7,000 tons of cold-rolled steel sheets next January in exchange for 12,000 tons of hot coils. POSCO plans to import 200,000 tons of Soviet hot coils next year in exchange for 117,000 tons of cold-rolled steel sheets, all worth about $58.5 million, the sources said.

Daewoo Crop. reportedly has agreed with the Soviet Russian Republic on a $500 million barter trade transaction for the export of some 30 consumer goods, including electric home appliances and cars, in exchange for crude oil, coal and raw materials.

In cooperation with Goldstar, Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. has been negotiating with the Soviet's Kirghiz Republic over the export of various products worth about $800 million including a TV set plant, the sources said.

Government's Handling of Trade Issues Criticized

SK2911083690 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 27 Nov 90 P 4

[From the "Tidbits" column]

[Text] During an inspection session of the National Assembly Trade and Industry Committee on 26 November lawmakers of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] criticized the goverment, alleging that "the government has failed to achieve success in the Uruguay Round negotiations on agricultural products and, consequently, this has resulted not only in strengthening the voices of dissident organizations, but also in completely destroying the DLP's foundation and popularity in rural villages." At the inspection session lawmakers of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], as well, denounced the government, saying that "our Commerce and Industry Ministry has tended to deal with the Uruguay Round issue, disregarding the demands and interests of our farmers."

As for the ROK-U.S trade issue, ruling and opposition lawmakers alike unanimously censured the U.S. side. Rep. Yi Song-ho of the DLP excitedly said that "the recent U.S. attitude in dealing with the trade issue between the ROK and the United States apparently gives us the impression that the United States regards our country as a state of the United States."

Rep. Pak Chong-tae of the PPD censured the United States, saying: "In the United States, too, is it a normal practice for cigarette shops, when they sell a pack of cigarettes, to give a cigarette lighter free of charge as a gift? Why have the government authorities concerned left such a practice by U.S. cigarette companies in this country unpunished?" He also censured U.S. Ambassador Gregg's recent remarks, saying: "His recent remarks were indeed haughty and insolent."

Rep. Chae Yong-sok of the PPD criticized our government's import policy and the U.S. government's trade pressure on our country alike, saying: "Despite the fact that 100 million-won dresser, 700,000-won cigarette case, 4,500,000-won silk blouse, and 5,000,000-won shoes are imported to our county, the United States has stubbornly insisted that we have restricted imports from the United States."

Japan, Taiwan Join With Seoul in UR Talks

SK2711123890 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Nov 90 p 1

[YONHAP from Tokyo]

[Text] With the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations over the agricultural market expected to be settled in December, three Asian countries—Korea, Japan, and Taiwan—have agreed to take diverse measures to frustrate the opening up of the agricultural market by forming a joint front.

According to this agreement, presidents of agricultural cooperatives from these three countries will release a joint statement during a press conference to be held on the afternoon of 28 November at (?Denki) Building in Yurakujo, Tokyo, and will participate in a nationwide rally of Japanese farmers scheduled for 29 November at Meiji Palace Hall. They also plan to attend a protest meeting of agricultural producers from all over the world in Brussels on 3 December and make clear their common position during the meeting.

At the Tokyo meeting the leaders of the agricultural cooperatives from these three countries are expected to explain that, on average, farm land owned by the individual farmer in Korea, Japan, and Taiwan is so small—one hectare, more or less—that indiscriminate measures for liberalizing agricultural trade will force small-scale farming industries in this region to go bankrupt.

This being the case, it is necessary to equally reflect the conflict of interest between these small-scale farmers and large farming industrialists in Europe and the United States during the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations to protect the base of Asian agriculture; to guarantee the minimum agricultural rights of all countries; and that all countries should be given enough of a grace period to readjust their agricultural structure.

Han Ho-son, president of the Central Agricultural Cooperatives of Korea, is expected to attend this meeting, along with (Horiuchi) and (Wu Mingchin), his counterparts from Japan and Taiwan.

Minister Urges New Focus for Export Drive

SK2811102790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0846 GMT 28 Nov 90

[By Yi Yong-chol]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korean Exporters have begun to realize that the international trade environment has become harsher and their survival depends on a change in sales strategies.

Economic indicators signal that Korea's export engine has run out of steam, the trade balance has switched from black to red, orders are falling, protectionism is running rampant, energy and wage costs have soared and workers are leaving their jobs.

Total shipments for the 250 manufacturing firms in the Korea export industrial complex in Kuro-gu, Seoul, were 413 million U.S. dollars last month, down 14.2 percent from September and 69.9 percent of the target. Their exports since January are 4.2 billion dollars, 94.7 percent of the figure in the same 10-month period last year and 64.2 percent of the goal.

Many production lines are short-handed, lowering productivity and increasing the defect rate, with the complex's 90,842 workers at the end of October 9,191 fewer than a year earlier.

Young workers are leaving the factories for cozy office jobs while management has to wrestle with rising payroll and raw material costs, and the same phenomena is reported in export complexes in Kumi, Ulsan, Pohang, Changwon, Masan and Pusan.

A recent survey by the Council of Korean Employers' Organization found that 56 percent of the nation's production line workers were willing to change their jobs.

The number of trading firms which opened their business in Seoul during the first half of the year remained at 496, up a paltry 4.2 percent over that of the corresponding period last year. This compares with rises of 57.5 percent for the service industry and 41 percent for construction. Export are up 3.1 percent and imports 13.5 percent as of Nov. 23.

Trade has swung from four-year straight surpluses since 1986 to a projected deficit of 5 billion dollars this year and 7.5 billion dollars next year, hitting hardest at major exports such as automobiles, textiles and electronics.

Automakers exported 575,000 cars in 1988, their best year, but sales were down 15.5 percent at the end of October from the same 10-month period last year. They shipped 354,000 cars last year and the figure is expected to be even smaller for 1990.

Hyundai Motor Co., which accounts for 70 percent of Korea's car exports, shipped 165,000 cars between January and October. Its goal was 240,000 cars.

Daewoo Motors Co. set a target of 67,000 Lemans for the year but is expected to achieve 84 percent at best, or 51,000 cars.

Textile exports, the locomotive of South Korea's spectacular economic growth until the mid-1980s, are off 3 percent for the first 10 months of the year. Experts say the textile industry has no option but to update production and make high-quality items, or be doomed to decline.

There are exceptions, however. Footwear exports soared 22.6 percent in January-October from the same period last year and shipbuilding, machinery and tires also performed well.

The export slump is also attributed to the economic slowdown in the industrialized world sparked by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and stronger import controls on Korean products. But the major problem is at home, experts say, where a lax work ethic and poor investment in research and development has resulted in Korean technology lagging far behind the rest of the world.

The reject rate for export items was about 3 percent in 1988, rose to 4.2 percent last year and was 5.8 percent for the first half of the year.

With vocal union backing, growing numbers of workers are refusing to work overtime. It is common to see factory workers reporting to work in mountain-climbing or fishing garb on a Saturday morning ready to enjoy the afternoon off.

Congested roads and harbors are delaying shipments, raising transportation costs and provoking frequent claims from buyers for compensation for late arrival. In order to cope with these challenges, many economic experts say, new export stategies are necessary.

"Now an export drive needs to focus on content rather than on superficial targets," says Sin Guk-hwan, first assistant trade and industry minister. "Quality has been unable to catch up with price increases due to the steep pay raises, rising financial and material costs and material shortage."

Korea's only choice is to develop its own technology in order to escape the deadlock, he said. "Major export items are not only being blocked in industrialized countries but also being overtaken by late industrializing countries. We must diversify overseas marketing and improve service to foreign buyers."

Bill To Fight International Crimes Drafted

SK2311095990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Texted] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Justice Ministry has drafted a bill on international law enforcement to combat drug trafficking and similar crimes, Ministry officials said Friday.

The bill, to be submitted to the current session of the National Assembly, will lay the foundation for agreements with other countries on extradition, and on assistance in criminal investigations and in the judicial process, the officials said.

The bill's 39 articles will allow Korean law enforcement agencies to ask their counterparts in foreign countries to locate criminal suspects, gather evidence, and serve summonses, notices and verdicts.

The foreign agencies may also be requested to search for evidence, confiscate it and to deliver it to Korea and to take sworn statements from witnesses.

Currently, evidence cannot be gathered abroad even if it is deemed vital to an investigation or a trial.

It was not indicated if this means that requests from foreign law enforcement agencies would also be accepted.

Oil Joint-Venture Project With Saudis Planned

SK2811124190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1131 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. is to conclude a 1.4 billion U.S. dollar joint-venture project with oil-rich Saudi Arabia for a refinery that can process 80,000 barrels a day.

Ssangyong officials announced Wednesday Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir and president of Aramco, the state-run company partner to Ssangyong, will be coming to Seoul Dec. 5 to sign the agreement.

The project will be 50-50, with Aramco investing 350 million dollars in crude oil and cash while Ssangyong will provide the same amount in refinery facilities, including those presently under construction in Onsan, officials said. The joint-venture company will also draw in another 700 million dollars from international financing.

Ssangyong officials said the ambitious plan will greatly help oil-dependent South Korea secure a steady supply of crude. The refinery, when completed in 1994, will be equipped with cracking and desulfurization facilities that can process 80,000 barrels a day.

The joint-venture is yet to apply and get approval from the South Korean government, which keeps strict control on refinery constructions. South Korea has five so far, and the Ssangyong-Aramco venture, if approved, will be the first to be allowed in more than 10 years.

The project was born in the middle of negotiations between Ssanyong and Saudi Government on crude oil purchase, company officials said, and received full support from Saudi oil minister.

Foreign Ministry Plans To Revamp Organization

SK2811125090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1200 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—Foreign Ministry is planning to revamp its organization to better deal with international policy and national security.

The ministry's report to the National Assembly Wednesday said it is planning to newly install a foreign policy office to plan and coordinate a comprehensive and long-term diplomacy. It is also to ungrade its currently-existing national security section to a bureau to handle reunification issues, according to the report.

The plan also calls for dividing the international organizations and treaties bureau into two separate bureaus—International Organization Bureau and Treaties Affairs Bureau. The separation is aimed at preparing for South Korea's bid to enter the United Nations and wider participation at other international bodies, the report said.

506 Jailed Under Security Law During No's Term

SK2611052790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0446 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—The Home Ministry said Monday that 506 people have been jailed on National Security Law charges since President No Tae-u took office in February 1988.

The figure includes 125 in 1988 and 215 in 1989.

There were 166 people behind bars during the first ten months of this year with more than 30 others facing imprisonment during the rest of the year, it said in data submitted to the National Assembly.

The government has paid victims of the Kwangju Democratization Movement 24.076 billion won in consolation, welfare and medical payments since 1981, of which 16.174 billion won in welfare payments were made since April, when the Kwangju compensation law took effect, it said.

* Signs of Perestroyka Observed in North Korea

912C0005 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Sep 90 p 16

[Article by Kim Yon-su, professor of political science at Kiel University, West Germany: "My 10-Day Stay in North Korea; I Was Asked a Barrage of Questions About 'Democratization in East Europe'"]

[Text] Editor's note: This is the first in a five-part series of travelogue by Professor Kim Yon-su (53), who recently paid a 10-day visit to North Korea to attend the "pan-national conference." Professor Kim has held a professorship in political science at Kiel University in West Germany since 1970 and is an expert on political affairs in communist bloc countries including the Soviet

Union and East Germany. He has been an exchange professor at Taegu University since 1985 and now heads the East-West Affairs Research Institute. He came down to South Korea from North Korea in 1948. After graduating from Songgyungwan University, he went to West Germany in 1961 for study to major in political affairs in the communist bloc. The list of books written by him includes: "The Realities and Future of ROK-German Relations" and "Korea Studies in the Soviet Union." [end editor's note]

I visited North Korea for 10 full days from 7 through 17 August. During my stay there, I had a chance to tour various places, including Mt Paekdu, the center of our history, and Koksan, my beloved native town in Hwanghae Province, in addition to the capital city of Pyongyang.

During my stay in North Korea, which I visited for the first time in 43 years, I had a strong impression, no matter how hard I tried to deny, that reform-oriented measures are being actively pursued in North Korea. I saw many facts substantiating this impression.

The first proof of perestroyka is that I had obtained an entry visa from the DPRK embassy in Beijing, China, for visit to North Korea. In the past, North Korea issued entry visas only to Koreans with foreign citizenships. But breaking away from this "policy on overseas compatriots," North Korea issued an entry visa to me, a man with ROK citizenship and an ROK passport. I am a Korean scholar with a residence in West Germany and I am currently working as a professor at Taegu University and director of the East-West Affairs Research Institute.

Museum of Revolution Excluded From Tour

The second proof of North Korea's reform policy is that they did not show me the "museum of the revolution," their proud showpiece. To tell the truth, before leaving for North Korea, I sought advice from Korean professors in the United States who had visited there before. They advised me that when I arrived in Pyongyang, I should express my wish to visit that museum. The reason was that the museum of the revolution is usually included in an itinerary for visitors from overseas; therefore, if I told my guide in advance that I wished to visit it, he and other North Korean hosts would give me a warmer reception.

For this reason, as soon as I arrived in Pyongyang, I expressed my wish to visit the museum of the revolution to my guide, a leading member of the Committee for Assistance to Overseas Compatriots.

But, strangely enough, I had no chance to visit the much-touted museum during my 10-day stay in North Korea. Apparently, North Korea felt that the current political climate and the international atmosphere were such that this was not the time to stress revolution but to develop reform-oriented measures. Probably, North Korea was more interested in gaining information on the actual state of the reforms which are in progress in the Soviet and East European countries, the area of my specialty, than to stir up revolutionary consciousness in me by showing me the museum of revolution.

The third proof is the lifestyle of Pyongyang citizens, particularly women in Pyongyang. These days women in Pyongyang wear diverse hairstyles, including perms—a far cry from the past when their hairstyle was uniform. Their dress was not uniform either as in the past when every woman wore a white traditional Korean coat and black skirt. In addition to the traditional coat and skirt, women seemed to be fond of wearing various styles of clothing, such as one-piece, and two-piece dresses. They like strong primary colors, and Western-styles are dominant in Pyongyang to the great surprise of Westerners.

The fourth and last proof that North Korea is pursuing a reform-oriented policy is the keynote speech delivered by Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the ad hoc preparatory committee at the "pan-national congress for the peace and peaceful reunification of the fatherland" held in North Korea during my stay there.

Refraining From Criticizing ROK Government

Chairman Yun Ki-pok delivered a speech, entitled "All Compatriots in the North, the South, and Overseas, Let Us Unite Tightly and Fight On Vigorously Under the Banner of National Reunification," at the ceremony kicking off the pan-national march, which was held at Lake Chonji [heavenly lake] on Mt Paektu. He also delivered a keynote speech to a rally at Kim Il-song Stadium in Pyongyang, attended by over 600 overseas Korean residents and more than 200,000 Pyongyang citizens. In both speeches, couched in a highly strategic vein to be sure, he refrained from using words criticizing our ROK Government, although he made demands similar to the previous ones on the necessity for reunifying the Korean peninsula and on means of reunification.

Let me quote just a passage from Chairman Yun Ki-pok's keynote speech which refers to the ROK Government.

"The political crises, military coups, social confusion and the conflicts among classes which have continued without interruption in South Korea for these 40 years and more are indicative of how arbitrary, unstable, and ignominious South Korea's political and social systems of subjugation are."

This remark cannot be viewed as a statement calumniating the ROK Government in naked terms.

On the contrary, the keynote report by Hwang Sok-yong, the South Korea chairman of the preparatory committee for the so-called pan-national congress, was full of expressions bitterly lambasting the ROK Government. North Korea, instead of making a direct criticism, had South Koreans criticize the South.

Hwang said: "Under the circumstances in which South Korea holds anticommunism as its cardinal state policy and brands North Korea by law as an anti-state or criminal organization, it will be impossible to find a clue to resolving the question of national reunification."

This kind of expression could not be found in the speech delivered by Yun Ki-pok, North Korean chairman of the preparatory committee. As evident in various examples cited above, reform work is actively under way in North Korea at present, and it was my impression that without doubt North Korea would continue to pursue its reform policy.

Photography Permitted as Private Business

The Soviet Union and all East European socialist countries are vying with each other in their pursuit of "perestroyka," or the policy of opening to the outside world. For this reason, we are interested in knowing to what extent North Korea is also pursuing perestroyka. Thus, during my stay in North Korea, I tried to confirm the extent of perestroyka in North Korea. In addition to the political signs cited above, I tried to find its evidence in the daily lives of North Korean citizens.

On may way to downtown Pyongyang for some sightseeing, I encountered a woman selling cold tea in front of the "Cultural Palace of the People." I asked her, "Are you selling cold tea for your private interest or under orders of some agency." To my surprise, the woman replied, "We are selling tea for our own private interest."

In the plaza in front of the "Pyongyang Study Hall of the People" not far from there, photographers were taking pictures for visitors from Pyongyang and other areas, for whom cameras are still not a daily necessity. I asked the photographers a similar question: "Are you giving your photographic service for your private interest or under orders of some agency?" The three photographers at work there replied: "Our photographic service is our private business." Once again I was able to confirm that there is perestroyka under way in North Korean society also.

I was also able to see signs of government controls in North Korea. In North Korea, all radio and TV broadcasts are under uniform control. As for telecasts, there is only one channel, which stays on the air from 1800 through 2300 or 2330 hours. Its newscasts carry practically no international news to the surprise of us South Koreans. In other words, their TV news programs carry nothing but domestic news.

Those many Pyongyang citizens I met during my sojourn in Pyongyang asked me about the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

I was surprised once again. I was asked about these changes by a young student I met in a winter sport facility called the "Ice Rink," and a Pyongyang housewife I met in front of the Cultural Hall of the People, a young gentleman I met in front of Koryo Hotel, and a youth I came across at the interchange near the "Potong Gate," one of the famous historical places in Pyongyang. Their questions aroused my curiosity as to where and from whom these people obtained information regarding changes in the communist bloc.

The substance of change Pyongyang citizens and the North Korean inhabitants in general are most interested to know is this: They heard the news about the reunification of East and West Germany, and they want to know why Honecker's East German communist government failed to play a leading role in the reunification process. They also heard about the 180-degree shift of Poland from a communist state to a Western style free market system, and they want to know how the "Solidarity" union, which has been a driving force in this shift, was organized. I still vividly recall the image of the young man who asked me so many questions about Lech Walesa, the leader of the free labor union. A woman asked me why the Hungarian workers socialist party had to abandon communism on its own initiative.

One gentleman surprised me when he asked about the tragic end of the Romanian dictator, Ceausescu, and the reasons for this tragic end. When I ponder over the substance of the questions which these Pyongyang citizens and other North Korean inhabitants approached me to ask, I realize that they have an expertise far exceeding the level of common knowledge and I was impressed by their eager desire for reform.

Control of Inhabitants, Complete Failure

Despite the fact that North Korea newscasts are devoid of international news, I learned that Pyongyang citizens and North Korean inhabitants obtain news about the outside world from some sources and by some means, although I was unable to confirm these sources and means during my brief 10-day stay. This is a clear sign that the North Korean Government's attempts to control its inhabitants have turned out to be a complete failure.

What surprised me in particular was the fact that a North Korean Workers Party cadre who called on me at my hotel maintained that the reason East Germany was unable to take the lead in the East-West German reunification process, letting West Germany take the initiative, was the collapse of the Honecker communist regime. I was surprised by his explanation as to why communism in East Germany fell so powerlessly. He said that the level of consciousness of the people of modern socialist and communist states, particularly the standard of their political evaluation, has improved so much that these states can no longer maintain their governments by simply advocating and adhering to the proletarian dictatorship, the invariable principle of a communist state, as in the past. This is to say that the people of all socialist countries will support socialism and strive to develop it only when their socialist or communist governments accurately understand the will of the people and operate as truly democratic governments for the people by reflecting their will in governing.

While listening to these words, I was once again able to confirm that powerful perestroyka is in progress in North Korean society also, and I asked myself what kind of support the North Korean Government of the Workers Party is receiving from the North Korean populace.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Brunei Shell Strikes Gas in Offshore Field

BK2411135290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 24 (AFP)—Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn. Bhd. said Saturday it had discovered gas below its offshore champion field near Bandar Seri Begawan.

The company said in a statement that a production test conducted over the last few days confirmed a major discovery and the well flow was now producing significant quantities of gas accompanied by light oil called condensate.

Malaysia

Fiji Premier Mara Arrives for Six-Day Visit

BK2511064290 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara and his wife Lady Lara Mara are now in Kuala Lumpur for a 6-day visit. They were met by Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak, who is also acting foreign minister, at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Ratu Sir Kamisese would be given an official welcome ceremony at Parliament Square tomorrow. After that, he will call on Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. Ratu Sir Kamisese and his wife will also be granted an audience by His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah. He will also visit the Proton Saga [Malaysian automobile] plant and deliver a talk "Fiji and the Pacific" at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, ISIS.

Holds Talks With Mahathir

BK2611092590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Fiji is keen to study Malaysia's success and effective government in maintaining harmony among its multiracial people. The interest was disclosed by Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara during a 90-minute meeting with Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in Kuala Lumpur today. He said the Fijian Government is prepared to send people to Malaysia to see how the government manage its multiracial society and to study the political organizations in the country. The Fijian leader arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday for a six-day official visit.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary General Datuk Abdul Majid Mohamed said the two leaders agreed that both countries had similar challenges and problems. Datuk Abdul Majid said Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir also stated Malaysia's willingness to help Fiji toward creating prosperity in that country.

On trade, Ratu Sir Kamisese expressed Fiji's willingness to supply more sugar to Malaysia. His country was keen to buy Malaysia's crude oil and Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara would visit Malaysian oil refineries before negotiations began.

According to Datuk Abdul Majid, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the government would encourage more Malaysian businessmen to invest in Fiji in addition to the present Malaysian (?interests) in the hotel and coastal fishing industry. Ratu Sir Kamisese thanked Malaysia for the training facilities provided to Fiji in the fields of defense, management, and [word indistinct]. The Fijian premier will this afternoon sign an air services agreement with Malaysia for the establishment of direct link between the two countries.

Singapore

Goh Chok Tong Sworn In as Prime Minister

BK2811154190 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Goh Chok Tong has been sworn in as Singapore's new prime minister. The members of his cabinet also took their oaths of office in a ceremony held before President Wee Kim Wee at the City Hall Center. Mr. Goh takes over from Mr. Lee Kuan Yew who has been at the helm for 31 years.

In his first speech as prime minister, Mr. Goh called on Singaporeans to join in the goverment's goal of leading Singapore into a nation of distinction. He said he and his colleagues have been studying new ideas to achieve this. They have put in together the most [word indistinct] of proposals into a long-term plan for Singapore and those (?plans) would be ready in a few months. Mr. Goh showed clearly how much Singaporeans can achieve together given the will and imagination.

Mr. Goh thanked Mr. Lee Kuan Yew as the old-guard leader for his encouragement and advice. Mr. Goh said his mission now is to ensure that Singapore thrives and grows. He has also to find a new team of men and women who would carry on where Mr. Lee and his colleagues left off. Mr. Goh said new programs to provide equal opportunities and to preserve social harmony will be introduced. The government will also be working on an [word indistinct] savings scheme to give children from poorer homes a better start in life. There will be more emphasis on economic growth, studies, and culture. The mother tongue is better taught in schools so that our children will love the language and not be [words indistinct]. There will also be heavy investments in people especially in the next generation. More will be done to train workers and upgrade all schools and the future institutes.

Mr. Goh said although he is optimistic about Singapore's future and its cooperation within ASEAN and the growth triangle, he is also wary of the risks which may lie ahead. This includes a new world order which has yet to be established and the outcome of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. If war breaks out Singapore will be hard-hit. The government will have to face facts and even unstable measures. Mr. Goh stressed that as we plan for a better life we must also brace ourselves for hard times.

On Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Mr. Goh said no tribute however eloquent can adequately describe his competency and Singapore's deep gratitude. He said Mr. Lee has shown what Singapore can achieve under his inspired leadership which has made us proud to be Singaporeans. Few people have done so much for their fellow men in return for so little. Even he was forced to work so hard to save himself [word indistinct] from the center of power and actually gave up power when the moment came. Mr. Goh said Mr. Lee is one such man, and we are all indebted to him. [passage omitted]

President Wee Kim Wee Speaks

BK2811153990 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Speech by President Wee Kim Wee at Goh Chok Tong's swearing-in ceremony—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Tonight, we shall witness the swearing-in of Mr. Goh Chok Tong and his government. We have chosen this hall for reasons of sentiments and history. On 5 June 1959, in this same hall, Singapore's first fully elected government was sworn in with Mr. Lee Kuan Yew as prime minister. In my letter accepting Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's resignation, I said that all Singaporeans are indebted to him for his selfless devotion over 31 years of his life to the building of modern Singapore. We are also grateful that Mr. Lee has ensured a smooth transition of political leadership. For the last few years, except for Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the government has been run by younger men and women. From the cabinet papers and minutes that I have read each week, I have seen how the younger cabinet ministers have gained the experience and developed a sensitive touch in dealing with difficult issues. I am confident that they will govern Singapore with the same confidence as the old team.

Singapore is much more developed now than in 1959. It has more assets. But, the most valuable asset they are inheriting is the political culture which prevails in Singapore. By political culture, I mean the political and social climate which prevails in Singapore, including the way Singaporeans think and act. Singaporeans have come to expect high standards of the government, not just from ministers and MPs but also from government servants, [words indistinct], and police officers. Now by extension, the private sector has adopted these high standards, especially the big corporations. This political culture is the result of continuous observance and the cultivation by Singapore's political leaders of high standards of personal and public (?domains), and they have required the same high standards from all who are in charge of the government, statutory boards, companies, and other bodies in the public sector. Those who are in (?temporary) charge of the life and fortune of their fellow Singaporeans have acted as [words indistinct].

The second feature of this political culture is the acceptance of merits as the major criterion for selection, appointment, and promotion in the public sector. Again by extension, this practice has spread to many parts of the private sector. Many Singapore companies now practice an objective [word indistinct] improvement and promotion based on merits.

The third feature is the pursuit of excellence in all fields from factories, offices, hotels, and shops to schools, colleges, and universities. Singaporeans know they have to give all their best. For, in a competitive world, it is only by excellence that Singaporeans can overcome the disadvantages of an island nation.

The fourth most valuable feature of our political culture is the harmony that prevails in the society composed of different races speaking different languages, having different cultures, and practicing different religions. An easy acceptance of each other, in spite of differences, has paved for peace and harmony. In many societies, harmony and tolerance have gradually disintegrated after the colonial powers departed. A government that is fair and just to individuals and groups, whether they belong to the majority or minority community, is vital for peace and harmony.

On this occasion, when the new prime minister and his cabinet will be sworn in, to begin a new chapter in our history, Singaporeans should be reminded that this political culture is a precious asset that we must safeguard and uphold. I have watched Mr. Goh Chok Tong and his team grow in the job these last five years, and I am confident that they will apply the same high standards both in the personal and the public domains.

I now ask the prime minister-designate, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, to come forward and take the oath of office followed by the ministers he has designated as members of his cabinet.

Cambodia

Soviet Union Reportedly Halts Arms Supplies

BK2911124090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 29 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has stopped supplying arms to the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, Moscow's ambassador to Vietnam said here Thursday.

"Some countries concerned ... in the East and West" failed to observe a moratorium proposed last year by

Moscow, which resumed its arms shipments to Cambodia as a result, Ambassador Rashit Khamidulin told a news conference. "But the Soviet Union is now giving no further military assistance to Phnom Penh," he said, warning "Don't be so sure other countries have stopped...or that there is proof" China has halted supplies to the Khmer Rouge.

Beijing said last week it had stopped arms shipments to the Khmer Rouge—the military backbone of a tripartite guerrilla alliance fighting the Phnom Penh government—after the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had adopted a Cambodian peace plan in September.

Mr. Khamidulin, Moscow's ambassador to Phnom Penh until early this year, also said the document adopted Sunday at talks in Paris by the permanent five was "important" and predicted that "it will be supported by the countries concerned and the Cambodian factions." Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, plus Indonesia agreed Sunday on a draft peace settlement to end the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict.

"The Soviet Union will try to ensure that the (Paris International Conference on Cambodia) is reconvened between now and the end of the year or early next year, but I think it should be reconvened by the end of the year," Mr. Khamidulin said. The 1989 Paris conference stalled when the four warring Cambodian factions failed to agree on a power sharing formula.

The Soviet position on Cambodia "is consistent with that of our Indochinese comrades (Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam)," Mr. Khamidulin said, adding that "the Khmer Rouge must not be allowed to return to power."

He also called for an early meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC), a joint authority grouping Phnom Penh with its guerrilla adversaries which is intended to represent Cambodian sovereignty pending U.N.-supervised elections. "Everyone except the Khmer Rouge now agrees with the seven plus seven formula, with (resistance leader Prince Sihanouk) as SNC president and (Phnom Penh prime minister) Hun Sen as vice president," he said.

The four warring factions agreed in September to form a 12-member SNC—six representatives from each side—but have since disagreed over its leadership. The resistance insists that Prince Sihanouk become its 13th member and SNC president, while Mr. Hun Sen has said he will agree only if he takes a 14th seat and the vice-president's post.

"The Khmer Rouge are the only obstacle," Mr. Khamadulin said. "One can predict that Prince Sihanouk will be neutral, though he will still be the resistance leader, but it is logical on Mr. Hun Sen's part to ask to be vice-president."

The Soviet diplomat expressed confidence that the conflict would be resolved soon as "Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has just persuaded (Khmer Rouge leader) Khieu Samphan to accept Hun Sen as SNC vice-president. If the Thais have really succeeded (in this), it's a good thing," he added.

Premier Hun Sen Not To Attend Paris Meeting

BK2911103290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 29 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said here Thursday he would not attend a proposed meeting in Paris of Cambodia's warring parties. The head of the Vietnam-installed government told a press conference that such a meeting "is now out of date."

"If such a meeting could take place it would endanger the existence of the SNC (Supreme National Council) already established, which finds itself in an impasse."

The three resistance factions have already accepted former monarch Prince Sihanouk's invitation to the Paris meeting in a bid to iron out their differences.

Mr. Hun Sen said his government was prepared for several more years to forge a comprehensive peace settlement if necessary. [sentence as received] He confirmed that Foreign Minister Hor Namhong had left earlier Thursday for Paris via Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, but not to attend the meeting.

Sihanouk Says Khmer Rouge 'Indispensable'

BK2911081390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 29 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk denounced Thursday a report that he was ready to drop the powerful Khmer Rouge from a settlement as Cambodia's peace process nears a critical stage.

The prince said the Khmer Rouge were "indispensable" to peace in Cambodia, reiterating his stand on the radical Marxist group which dominates a guerrilla coalition fighting the Phnom Penh regime.

The former Cambodian monarch, who heads the coalition and one of its two U.S.-aided non-communist factions, has repeatedly defended his controversial alliance with the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge.

War broke out in Cambodia 12 years ago when Vietnam invaded its southwestern neighbour to drive the Khmer Rouge from power, whose near four-year rule resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands in the country's killing fields.

Prince Sihanouk maintains there can be no peace in Cambodia without Khmer Rouge involvement, despite their human rights record.

"In order to achieve peace and stability in Cambodia, it is indispensable to include the Khmer Rouge in the peace process, and consequently in a (provisional) quadripartite government," he said in statement issued by his office here.

The statement was in response to a report by a U.S. news agency earlier this week quoting a Frenchman identifying himself as a "mediator" between Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh as saying the prince was prepared to accept a peace agreement excluding the Khmer Rouge.

Prince Sihanouk said the remarks attributed to Jacques Van Minden were "absolutely contrary to the truth regarding the Cambodia problem."

"I would have never envisaged accepting a tripartite government excluding the Khmer Rouge," the prince said.

"To the contrary, I have always said and continue to say that we could not and cannot ignore the Khmer Rouge problem or underestimate their importance," he added.

Prince Sihanouk, currently in Paris, has invited leaders of the warring factions to a "fraternal meeting" in the French capital in a bid to overcome their differences following the recent drafting of a peace agreement there by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The factions have been squabbling over the leadership of a joint interim authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC), and the Phnom Penh government, citing the danger of a Khmer Rouge return to power, has insisted that it would not relinquish power within the framework of a peace agreement.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has warned that demands for the dismantling of his government would lead to the collapse of a planned international Paris conference to be convened to finalize a settlement.

The Khmer Rouge and former Cambodian Prime Minister Son Sann, the leader of the other non-communist faction in the anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition, have accepted Prince Sihanouk's invitation to meet in the French capital.

But there has so far been no reply from Phnom Penh, although sources there reported earlier this week that Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong was to travel to Paris shortly.

Khieu Samphan Plans To Attend Paris Meeting

OW2811195590 Beijing XINHUA in English 1602 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, November 28 (XINHUA)—Khieu Samphan, vice-president of Cambodia will come here to participate on behalf of the side of Democratic Kampuchea in a meeting of Cambodia's four factions.

This was announced here today by Ou Sakun, permanent representative of Cambodia to the United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization.

On November 25, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk sent an invitation letter to each of the three Cambodian resistance forces and the Phnom Penh regime to a meeting in Paris to discuss national issues including that of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

Khieu Samphan accepted the invitation in a letter to Sihanouk as part of Democratic Kampuchea's efforts to seek a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

Ou Sakun said the international community should continue its pressure on Hanoi and the Phnom Penh regime to force them to change their stubborn stand.

Son Sann, prime minister of the national government of Cambodia, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of Samdech Sihanouk and leader of another resistance faction, have also agreed to attend the meeting.

No official response has been received from the Phnom Penh regime yet, but Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the regime is said to be likely to show up in Paris.

International Organizations Give Aid to Red Cross

BK2711150190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1100 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 27—Since early this year, the Cambodian Red Cross has received 9,870 tons of relief from various international organisations for distribution to needy families and war refugees in various provinces throughout the country.

The relief, which included medicines, medical equipment, clothing, husked rice, and fuel, was donated by the Red Cross organisations of Sweden and Britain, the OXFAM, the World Food Program (WFP), the Church World Service (CWS), the Japan International Volunteer Committee (JVC), the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the HCR [High Commissioner for Refugees], the CIDSE [International Cooperation for Development and Economic Solidarity], and the CEE [European Economic Community]. It has been distributed to needy families and war refugees in the provinces of Kompong Speu, Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Kampot.

Needy families in the districts of Samaki Meanchey, Toek Phos, and Kompong Leng (Kompong Chhnang Province) have received 285 tons of husked rice and a quantity of clothes and household utensils, while those in the districts of Angkor Chey and Dang Tung (Kampot Province) got 50 tons of husked rice.

Some 800 families of war refugees in Kompong Thom Province have been supplied with 50 tons of husked rice and a quantity of consumer goods such as blankets, mosquito nets, scarves, and household utensils.

In Banteay Meanchey, a province bordering with Thailand, 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh, the families of war refugees received nearly 60 tons of husked rice from the Cambodian Red Cross.

Hor Namhong Greets New Indian Foreign Minister

BK2711135690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, recently conveyed a congratulatory message to His Excellency Vidhya Shukla on the occasion of the latter's nomination as foreign minister of the Republic of India.

The message read: I firmly believe that the relations of friendship and multifarious cooperation between the governments and peoples of Cambodia and India will further strengthen and develop.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to profoundly thank the Indian Government and people, in particular the Indian Foreign Ministry for their support to the cause of struggle of the Cambodia Government and people for national independence, peace, freedom, and social prosperity.

May Your Excellency have the best of health, happiness, and every success in the implementation of your noble task.

SPK Reports Fifth Military Zone Activities

BK2911053690 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0424 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 29—In the 12 months to October this year, the government forces of the Fifth Military Zone (Battambang, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey Provinces) put out of action 4,233 enemy troops, including 2,045 killed, 1,447 wounded, 80 captured and 648 others forced to surrender.

Those who surrendered included 553 ex-Polpotists, 75 ex-Sereikans and 20 ex-Sihanoukists. They handed over 229 firearms to the authorities.

Besides, the government troops seized 688 assorted guns, 57 tons of ammunition, three tons of mines, one ton of T.N.T., 11 walkie- talkies, 38 motor-boats, and a quantity of other war means.

Moreover, in the week ended on November 22, the Fifth Military Zone received 17 returnees who brought along 16 rifles; 15 of them were Polpotists.

Combatants of Fifth Military Region Promoted

BK2811123390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On 23 November in Battambang Province, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, attended a ceremony to confer decorations and promotions on outstanding units, cadres, and combatants of the 5th Military Region. The ceremony took place during a meeting to review military and political works undertaken by the military region in 1990.

Comrade Hun Sen bestowed the first class victory medal on Comrades Maj. Gen. Hul Savoan, member of the party Central Committee and commander of the 5th Military Region, and senior Lt. Say Kroeun, commander of the 42d battalion's D-4 Unit. In addition, Comrade Lt. Gen. Pol Saroeun, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy defense minister, and chief of the General Staff, conferred the second class victory medal on 10 cadres and the third class victory medal on four units of the 5th Military Region, while Comrade Lt. Gen. Nhim Vanda, member of the party Central Committee, trade minister, and deputy defense minister, awarded the third class victory medal to seven outstanding cadres.

Moreover, Comrade Hun Sen promoted nine lieutenant colonels to the rank of colonel, and Comrade Lt. Gen. Pol Saroeun upgraded 17 majors to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Heng Samrin Speaks at Inauguration of School

BK2911091790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On the morning of 28 November, the Phnom Penh City people's committee organized a ceremony to inaugurate a new school building, recently completed, at the Bak Tuk secondary school under the chairmanship of Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State.

Also presiding over the occasion were Comrade Say Phuthang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the party Central Committee Control Commission, and vice chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Say Chhum, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Sim Ka, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Phnom Penh party committee; Comrade Yos Son, member of the party Central Committee and education minister; Comrade Hok Langdi, deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh people's committee; and Venerable Um Sum, head of the Phnom Penh clergy. Leading cadres from ministries, services, wards and districts, people, students' parents, and a large number of generous persons were also present.

In the construction report read by Comrade (Kri Benghong), deputy director of the town planning and building department, this new school building was made of concrete to replace a wooden and deteriorating structure which could not ensure safety for students. This building has three stories with 15 classrooms. It is 46 meters long, nine meters wide, and 10.5 meters high. The total cost of the building is 27.7 millions riels. This school building was constructed at the initiative of Comrade Say Phuthang and the contribution and assistance of a number of ministries and services and many generous persons in Koh Kong Province.

Speaking at the inauguration of this new school building, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin pointed out that:

[Begin recording] On behalf of the party, government, and in my own name, I would like to congratulate and express cordial thanks to everyone for providing 44 millions riels for the completion of the three-story and 15-classroom building at the Bak Tuk school and for building other new school buildings. This is evidence of our people's patriotic spirit, love for the people, and traditional solidarity spirit and assistance to contribute to restoring and building the material and educational basis to respond to our people's demands for education.

On the same occasion, I would also like to praise the efforts of all levels of the school's administration, teachers, and students to achieve great results in education and to develop the school in the past 12 years. This is an appropriate contribution to restoring and developing the national cultural basis.

Respected clergy and compatriots: In the past nearly 12 years, amid the enemy's constant destructive activities, and starting from zero, we have braved and overcome countless obstacles to restore the country. Although there are still many problems to be solved, to this day, we have scored remarkable results. In many sectors, our people are becoming the real masters of the motherland's destiny. Along with doing everything to counterattack [words indistinct], the party and the State of Cambodia's government have been doing all they can to find a comprehensive and political solution to the Cambodian problem through negotiations aimed at ending the war and achieving national reconciliation and to respond to the Cambodian people's real interests.

In the cause of peace in Southeast Asia and the world, the State of Cambodia has firmly adhered to a stance full of goodwill in the arena to search for peace in Cambodia. It has conducted 15 negotiations abroad, including seven meetings with Samdech Sihanouk, at great expense. We have made many great concessions, such as pulling out Vietnamese troops 15 months ahead of schedule. We are willing to accept a UN role to supervise the implementation of agreements and organize free elections in Cambodia.

Lately, although we are in control of nearly 100 percent of the territory, we are still willing to let the other side have a 50 percent share in the Supreme National Council [SNC]. On the contrary, the three opposing Cambodian groups, with the assistance of international reaction, have been using all kinds of maneuvers to destroy the Cambodian revolution, now and in the future, to move toward achieving their strategy of waging war and toppling the State of Cambodia. They still stick to an intransigent attitude and are not sincere in finding a solution to the Cambodian problem. They try to use the negotiation table to gain advantage over us and do not consider the vital interest of the nation and people. Furthermore, they still have illusions about implementing military measures to achieve their ambitions and to continue massacring innocent people and destroying society and the nation.

Despite their talk of peace, they are in fact feverishly making preparations for war. They have brought weapons and ammunition to prepare for large-scale offensives against us aimed at seizing territory and people, particularly in rural areas. Along with this, they sit at the negotiating table to destroy the peace process, or at least to block the negotiations, in order to prolong the war that would favor the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

In this respect, we should clearly realize their perfidious maneuvers at the first session of the SNC when they tried to elevate the individual role of Samdech Sihanouk in order to create obstacles to hinder the discussion on other major events, in particular a voluntary cease-fire, end of foreign military aid, and dispatch of an SNC delegation to the United Nations, and so on. This clearly shows that the enemies do not yet have the goodwill to end the war.

To this day, Pol Pot's policy has not changed. It is exactly the same as it was before. This group does not compromise with us. It even nurtures vengeful ideas, more barbarous and cruel than before. The forces of Sihanouk and Son Sann are opportunist forces which ally themselves with the Pol Pot forces for their immediate benefits. These forces certainly cannot control those of Pol Pot. For us, we cannot let history repeat what happened in 1975. Reality has clearly shown that only our State of Cambodia regime has the determination and sufficient capability to oppose Pol Pot from returning to massacre our people again.

The State of Cambodia still has genuine goodwill to quickly end the war and will continue to attend every negotiation forum for national reconciliation. I would like to take this opportunity to declare that the State of Cambodia's principled view and stance and the sacred request of the Cambodian people is that we aspire to have long-term peace with clear guarantees for the nonreturn of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and for genuine respect for Cambodia's national independence and sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

Therefore, the primary task ahead is to rally forces to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to massacre the Cambodian people by considering this as an historic and responsible task toward the nation and country.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, and in my own name, I appeal to the entire party, armed forces, and compatriots, to heighten more than ever their spirit of genuine patriotism and responsibility toward the nation and country; unite as one to prevent at all costs the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime; safeguard at all costs all social and national gains; defend the rebirth of the motherland and our people; and defend national independence and sovereignty, by effectively implementing the spirit of the resolutions of the party Central Committee's 11th plenum, the spirit of the 19th session of the first National Assembly, and the two political slogans: "Everything for serving the battlefield" and "Everything for increasing the people's confidence in our new regime."

Respected clergy and beloved generous ladies and gentlemen, teachers, students and compatriots: With the active participation of all levels of state authorities, mass organizations, the clergy, and compatriots living abroad, we have overcome countless obstacles to restore the socio-economic basis. Although we have not yet fully achieved this, we have made progress worthy of pride. The educational sector in particular has developed into a full system from kindergarten to higher education with vocational training. In the 1990-91 school year, we have 5,226 schools for all levels of education throughout the country. The party and government have made efforts to invest a lot in this and have clearly determined that education is an investment or a key and major production unit for serving the cause of social progress.

Education should be linked to national defense tasks and the restoration of the economy. The expansion of education should be closely linked to common labor and the direction of the country's progress. Therefore, in order to advance education and move along a progressive path both quantitatively and qualitatively, it is proposed that we more vigorously promote a number of the following major ideas.

Education in schools should be linked to education in families and society. All possiblities should be looked into to get student's tutors to contribute to following the progress of their children and to have close relations with the schools.

Students: You should follow the advice of teachers, strive to observe the school's internal discipline, and transform yourselves into good children, good students, and good friends, and combatants active in studying and other activities prescribed in the school's curriculum, and be of use to society and the nation.

The emulation movement of teaching well and studying well should be constantly promoted among students and teachers. Bases should be built for going on to higher education and for going into a profession after finishing school. Students should be taught to realize the noble quality of labor and to possess a high professional conscience.

I would like to call on teachers and students to continue carrying out these noble tasks by sharpening the will to work more vigorously, expand and strengthen solidarity and unity, continue the tradition of genuine patriotism and love for the people. Be active and take part in the masses' three revolutionary movements. Exert all efforts to educate and train future generations to take over from the older ones and be good citizens of our fine Angkor motherland.

Respected clergy and beloved generous ladies and gentlemen, teachers, and students: I would like to appeal to the clergy and compatriots in and outside the country to provide further assistance, in combination with the state investment, to build a necessary material basis for the educational sector.

Finally, on behalf of the party and government, and in my own name, I would like to congratulate this new and valuable achievement and wish good health and success to the clergy, honored guests, generous ladies and gentlemen, comrades, teachers, and students. May you achieve new successes in every task. I declare open this new school building. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Afterward, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin awarded decorations and handed national construction certificates to all generous persons who contributed to providing financial assistance for building this new structure. The ceremony was concluded after Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin cut the ribbon symbolizing the opening of the new school building.

Consultative Meeting in Phnom Penh Denounced

BK2711122390 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Station commentary: "The Reason for the Vietnamese's and Their Lackey Puppets' Opposition to the Change of the Puppet Army and Administration is Because Vietnam Has Hidden a Great Number of its Troops in Cambodia"]

[Text] At a recent meeting in Phnom Penh among the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and the puppets in Phnom Penh and Vientiane, there was a consensus that in any settlement of the Cambodian problem the puppet army and administration in Phnom Penh should absolutely not be changed. The fact that the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and their two puppets made such a statement—at the time when the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia were fleshing out the big five's plan aimed at settling the Cambodian problem via a comprehensive political solution, and when the international community has earnestly demanded that the Cambodian problem be resolved on the basis of the big five's document—shows that both the Soviet Union and Vietnam as well as their puppets do not want to solve the Cambodian problem via an overall political settlement. They are not willing to settle the problem—by urging Vietnam to withdraw all its aggressor troops from Cambodia so that free and fair elections can be organized in keeping with the big five's document—and allow Cambodia to recover its security, peace, independence, and territorial integrity.

Why do Vietnam and its puppets firmly insist that the puppet army and administration should absolutely not be changed? Because Vietnam continues to hide its troops in Cambodia in order to further invade and occupy the country. Vietnam has not removed a single soldier of its existing forces in Cambodia. And what those troops have done is just change their uniforms and disguise themselves as some puppet soldiers and some Cambodian civilians while the others have gone into hiding in jungles. As for fresh Vietnamese troops continuously shipped to Cambodia, they have also been ordered to disguise themselves as puppet soldiers. In the puppet administration, there are also disguised Vietnamese officials in control of every office from top to bottom. Now, there are over 100,000 Vietnamese troops and officials together with more than 1 million Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia. As such, if the UN peacekeeping force is allowed to implement its verification task in Cambodia and the UN administration to run the country, the Vietnamese will certainly be uncovered, caught, and sent back to Vietnam. They will have nowhere to hide. This is why Vietnam and its puppets have vehemently refused to allow for the alteration of the puppet army and administration and opposed the dispatch of the UN peacekeeping force and the UN Transitional Administration to Cambodia [UNTAC]. In other words, they are against the document of the five UNSC permanent members. By all appearances, it is the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets who have blocked and destroyed the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to achieve a comprehensive political solution for the Cambodian problem.

The world can no longer afford to let Vietnam stay in the way of the settlement of the Cambodian problem and destroy the five UNSC permanent members' document, which has become a blueprint that has won the support of the entire international community. The world has clearly realized that to reach a comprehensive and durable political settlement in Cambodia, stronger pressure should be continuously applied to Vietnam and its lackey puppets until they are compelled to unconditionally respect and implement the framework document of the five UNSC permanent members. Moreover, the Cambodian problem should be settled by dispatching the UN peacekeeping force and the UNTAC to implementing an overall verification in Cambodia and by establishing the Supreme National Council headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, which will, in concert with the UN peacekeeping force, implement the comprehensive political settlement process.

Enemy Troops Reported Routed in Kompong Som

BK2811035890 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] On 16 November the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys gathered 200 of their troops from Sre Ambel and Prey Nop Districts in an attempt to take back liberated villages in Chrey Svay Commune on the Kompong Som battlefield. They were, however, ambushed and routed by our national resistance forces east of Prasat Village. We killed 20 enemy soldiers—five bodies were left on the battlefield—and wounded 30 others. We destroyed two AK's and one RPG gun and seized two B-40's and a quantity of ammunition.

Indonesia

Daily Views Importance of Suharto Visit to SRV

BK2811115790 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 22 Nov 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Secure Southeast Asia"]

[Text] Only the coming developments in Southeast Asia will bear out the strategic importance of President Suharto's visit to Vietnam. He arrived in Hanoi from an extended official visit to China on Monday and the presidential party returned safely to Jakarta yesterday.

The overall purpose of President Suharto's itinerary to Japan, China and Vietnam—although implemented within different official contexts—, as we see it, was to lay the groundwork for the creation of a secure and conducive geostrategic environment as archipelagic Indonesia enters a new century.

The basic premise underlying this concept is that a large archipelagic state such as ours—the most populous nation in East Asia after China—with considerable natural resources in its continental shelves cannot afford to tolerate for too long festering polito-military conflicts that have a destabilizing impact on regional stability. Nor can it risk allowing some states in Southeast Asia to remain stagnant in terms of their sociopolitical growth, thereby creating a de facto dichotomy that can only give rise to hampering effects on Indonesia's independent and active foreign policy.

In other words, it is to Indonesia's geostrategic interests that Southeast Asia transform itself into a cohesive, stable and dynamically growing subregion to such a degree that all states in this area have a stake in upholding the principle of multi-layered cooperation.

The series of meetings conducted during President Suharto's visit in Hanoi should be viewed against such a backdrop as a growing archipelagic Indonesia understandably pays increasing attention to its geostrategic environment.

The right setting for the talks in Hanoi was assured when President Suharto unequivocally stated that "Vietnam's and Indonesia's modern histories, in which the struggle for independence became the central theme, have shown that a nation imbued with a spirit for independence, nationalism and cultural dignity cannot be destroyed by an overwhelming outside force."

The Vietnamese leaders apparently have become wiser and divested themselves of a hero's mentality as reflected in their response to President Suharto's opening gambit. "We, the Vietnamese people, perhaps know how to wage a war, but we need to learn from Indonesia the right ways to develop a country, Nguyen Van Linh said.

The immediate result of the talks conducted by President Suharto with PM [Prime Minister] Do Moi and Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh, and those conducted by Coordinating Minister for Economic, Financial and Industrial Affairs Radius Prawiro and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas with their respective counterparts is that a structured consultative forum is now in place that will strengthen Indonesia-Vietnam relations.

Bilateral cooperation treaties, like the one signed yesterday in Hanoi by Foreign Ministers Ali Alatas and Nguyen Co Thach, can only become instrumental in accelerating wider and deeper relations if both sides consistently work hard to promote their mutual interests, and do not take their friendly relations for granted.

President Suharto's visit to Hanoi hopefully has convinced the Vietnamese leadership that Indonesia will do its utmost to integrate Vietnam into the emerging network of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia.

On the other hand, unless Vietnam fully realizes the vast changes that are taking place in the global scene, and the implications in the East Asia/Pacific region, and the need to introduce timely sociopolitical changes domestically, then no matter whether friendly and sympathetic countries such as Indonesia are keen to offer a helping hand—it will remain a stagnant country in socioeconomic terms.

Minister on Mediation Efforts for Uruguay Round

BK2811142190 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Report by Radio Republic of Indonesia correspondent Suratno]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Suharto today received Trade Minister Arifin Siregar who was accompanied by Tungki Ariwibowo, junior minister for industries, and Syarifuddin Baharsyah, junior minister for agriculture. The three ministers will attend the ministerial meeting of the Uruguay Round in Brussels, Sweden [as heard] from 3 to 7 December.

According to Minister Arifin Siregar, Indonesia will try to make mediation efforts to prevent the failure of the Uruguay Round. Of course, Indonesia's determination is related to its national interests.

[Begin Siregar recording, in progress] Should this fail, its negative impact would indeed be very far-reaching for all countries, including ours. If the Uruguay Round does not succeed, the U.S. Government may face greater pressure from certain of its public groups as well as Congress to take very [words indistinct] measures. Thus, there will be, let's say, bilateral talks between the United States and (?other) countries. Indonesia, as you know, exported goods worth 3.5 billion [currency not specified] to the United States in 1989, while our imports from there were 2 billion. Thus, we enjoyed a 1.5 billion-surplus. If we hold bilateral talks with the United States, our position would be weak. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Laos

Vice Chairman Receives SRV Planning Group

BK2811102790 Vientiane KPL in English 0854 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 28 (KPL)—Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning and finance, yesterday morning granted an audience to a delegation of Vietnam's State Planning Committee led by its vice-chairman, Tran Phuong.

The delegation is here on a two-week visit to Laos. During the visit, the Vietnamese delegation had talks with Lao first deputy minister of economy, planning and finance, Khamsai Souphanouvong, to exchange experiences on the introduction of new economic management mechanism in their respective country.

Khamsai Souphanouvong also informed his Vietnamese counterpart of the general orientation on long- and short-term economic development in Laos.

Hmong Refugees in Thailand Unwilling To Return

BK2911102890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 29 (AFP)—A United Nations voluntary repatriation programme has been unable to attract the Hmong people, the main group of Laotian refugees in Thailand, a U.N. official said here Thursday.

Since January the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has repatriated nearly 1,100 Laotians under the programme but 65,000 still remain in camps supervised by the UNHCR in Thailand.

In the last decade 6,181 refugees have returned under the programme while a further 15,000 to 20,000 have returned of their own accord. But the Hmong have been hard to involve "as they are in the grip of the Van Pao group, who won't let them leave," said Daniel Bellamy, UNHCR delegate in Vientiane.

General Van Pao is one of the main leaders of guerrillas—mostly Hmong—operating from bases in Thailand who have maintained a sporadic war against the communist government in Vientiane.

"The guerrillas recruit in the camps, particularly those not controlled by the UNHCR," Mr. Bellamy said. He said, however, that the UNHCR believed those returning will increase next year as refugees find resettlement programmes ending.

Currently more refugees, mostly people from the central plains and other minorities, were returning to Laos than leaving which was "encouraging," he said, adding that the UNHCR now expected to be able to meet a monthly voluntary repatriation figure of 300 refugees. A simpler proceedure and no reports of reprisals against returnees had all helped, he said.

Laos had also separated the refugee issue from its border dispute with Thailand and this now allowed "good collaboration between the two countries," another refugee worker said.

Vo Chi Cong, Heng Samrin To Visit 'Soon'

BK2811101390 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 28 (KPL)—The high level delegation of the party and government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee, and president of the Vietnamese State Council, is to visit Laos soon to attend the celebration of the 15th founding anniversary of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], said a press release by the Lao Government.

Another press release of the government also stated that Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, will lead his party to visit Laos very soon to attend the event.

The visits of the high party and state delegations of the two fraternal countries are made in response to the invitation by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and the government of the Lao PDR.

Hopes for Settling Cambodian Problem Viewed

BK2911060390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1330 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Feature: "New Hope of Settling Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] Beloved listeners, certain good results have been achieved in a meeting of the working group of the Paris international conference, which was held in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, on 9-10 November. Participants included representatives from all five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council, in addition to Indonesia, as cochairman of the conference, an envoy of the UN secretary general, and chairmen of the three joint committees—comprised of Canada, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic—which were set up following the Paris conference. In the meeting, the participants agreed to bring decisions reached in the meeting to the attention of the various Cambodian factions attached to the Supreme National Council [SNC], which will hold a meeting in Paris. So far, the SNC meeting will be held as scheduled. It is expected that the outcome of the meeting, be it positive or negative, will be known soon. The point of disagreement that cannot be settled among the Cambodian factions is the election of chairman and vice chairmen of the SNC and the appointment of its delegates to attend the 45th UN General Assembly session.

Regarding its stand on the election of the SNC chairman, the State of Cambodia has put forth a proposal comprising three formulas. The first formula suggests that Prince Sihanouk be chairman and Hun Sen be vice chairman of the SNC and that the number of the council members from each side be seven; the second formula suggests that cochairmen be elected from the two sides; and the third formula suggests that the chairmanship be rotated between the two sides.

Respected listeners, nevertheless, as of now it is seen that a compromise has been achieved between the two sides to implement the first formula as proposed by the State of Cambodia. Regarding this, a senior official [words indistinct] has said that Prince Sihanouk has consulted the principles of this issue with General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of Thailand, in Beijing during Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan's visit to China last week. The Khmer Rouge, which is seen as a main principal in sabotaging various peace agreements, has also agreed to the first formula.

The problems that have caused delay in settling the Cambodian issue among the various Cambodian factions at present are the problems of the posts of chairman, vice chairmen, and the number of the SNC members. Actually, these are merely minor problems of disagreement. More time is needed to settle other remaining problems concerning details of the peace agreement on the cease-fire—cease-fire on a voluntary basis, the free and democratic elections, and the formation of government. These are the main problems that have remained unsettled. The future of Cambodia and the development of the process in settling the Cambodian problem through peaceful means remain the matters that one should watch for an outcome.

Lao Chamber of Commerce of America Office Opens

BK2811101590 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 28 (KPL)—The office of the Laotian Chamber of Commerce of America was opened here yesterday. Taking part in the opening ceremony were Mr. Khamphan Simmalavong, deputy minister of trade and tourism, U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Laos Salmon, and senior Lao and American officials.

The opening of the office is aimed at promoting economic and commercial cooperation between Laos and the United States of America. It will bridge contacts with overseas Laotians in the U.S.A and other countries who wish to invest or join in economic development in Laos according to the policy for the expansion of cooperation with foreign countries issued by the Lao Government.

It will also help to promote and make cooperation with foreign countries more efficient, facilitate the tapping of foreign assistance to Laos, establish the relations between Lao and U.S. state and individual sectors.

The chamber has opened its representation in the U.S.A since 1988.

Foreign Minister Receives New Charge d'Affaires

BK2911121290 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 29 (KPL)—Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs, yesterday morning received Mr. Zdenek Telicka [name as received], who presented to the minister the letter of his appointment as charge d'affaires of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic to Laos.

PASASON Interviews Thongloun Sisoulit

BK2911054190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Interview with Thongloun Sisoulit, alternate member of the party Central Committee, deputy head of the Foreign Relations Board of the party Central Committee, and deputy foreign affairs minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, by PASASON correspondents on the responsibilities, roles, and prestige of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the party, and the state in the past 15 years and in the future—read by announcers; date not given]

[Text] [PASASON] Would you please review the status and role of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] in the international arena in the past 15 years?

[Thongloun] As a Lao, I am extremely proud to see that our country has grown and developed in all fields. Especially, I will have the opportunity to joyously and grandly celebrate with all compatriots throughout the country the 15th anniversary of the founding of the LPDR on 2 December 1990.

In the past 15 years, we have recorded numerous great achievements and successes in various fields. The greatest pride for us is that the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] has led the entire people to score satisfactory victories and successes in national defense and construction. After freeing itself from the war of aggression that lasted for several decades and attaining complete independence following the founding of the LPDR, our country not only faced subversion from enemies inside and outside trying to destroy our young republic since its inception, but also numerous hardships and shortcomings caused by war aftermaths.

In the past 15 years, however, the LPDR has managed not only to overcome those numerous obstacles and difficulties and to survive, but has also continually developed. Nonetheless, all Lao people as well as others are aware of the reality in Laos. They are confident our people will be able to continue to progress and develop. It is undeniable that our people have achieved numerous victories in the past 15 years, thanks to the significant party contributions in organizing and implementing a correct foreign policy and in pursuing a policy of developing diplomatic relations with other countries.

Firmly adhering to our party's correct, consistent, and unchangable foreign policy of upholding peace, national independence, friendship, and cooperation, our country has advanced from being an unknown colony without international status and role to an honorable and prestigious state with an important, international role. At present, we have diplomatic relations with 74 countries and have established contacts with numerous international organizations.

It is well-known that in pursuing correct foreign policy and diplomacy over the past 15 years, the LPDR has been adamant in trying to create favorable international conditions to enable us to effectively fulfill two strategic tasks: that is, to defend national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and to carry out socioeconomic development to bring progress to our country speedily.

In the past 15 years, we have scored numerous victories internationally. We have kept up with the trend of increasing our friends and reducing our enemies. We have gained more sympathy and support from friendly countries. Also, we have secured close solidarity and special relations with Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. We have consistently preserved and strengthened our friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other friendly countries. At a time when the situation is volatile, we have successfully adapted to the realities in some countries and have tried to create new forms of relations with them, suited to our common needs.

We have improved and developed good relations and multifaceted cooperation with the PRC. We have preserved and developed good relations with India, Myanmar [Burma], and other neutral countries as well as with the Nonaligned countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We have maintained good relations with northern European countries. We have received considerable support, cooperation, and assistance from Sweden and other countries in that region. We have maintained normal relations with the Western European and the EC countries. We have developed relations and cooperation with Japan, Australia, and other countries.

As for our relations with the United States, even though numerous problems have to be worked out between us, our side has constantly expressed sincere and good intentions to gradually improve and consolidate relations. With regard to Southeast Asia, we have never abandoned efforts to preserve our relations with ASEAN countries. We have tried to contribute to the settlement of the Cambodian problem so as to make this region into one of peace, stability, and cooperation.

Our party and state foreign policy over the past 15 years has significantly contributed to national defense and the socioeconomic development of our country. As a result, our country's roles and status have increased unprecedentedly in the international arena.

[PASASON] What achievements has the LPDR made in improving fraternal relations with neighboring countries, in particular with the Kingdom of Thailand?

[Thongloun] The LPDR shares common borders with five countries—Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. As we are aware, there have been no problems in Lao-Vietnamese and the Lao-Cambodian relations. The borders of these three countries are peaceful and friendly. There has been also no problem along the Lao-Myanmar border. From initial talks, mutual understanding has been achieved, and an agreement with concrete details about the border issue will be reached soon. As for the Lao-Chinese border, following the improvement of good bilateral relations, existing border problems will be settled in the near future. There are no major difficulties or obstacles in dealing with this issue. As for the Lao-Thai relations, there are specific characteristics with favorable conditions and difficulties and complexities. Laos and Thailand are neighbors with 1,700 km of common border connected by land, water, and mountains. We have similar traditions, languages, and so forth. All these should serve as unique, favorable conditions for the two countries to create mutual understanding and settle problems. There have always been difficulties in the Lao-Thai relations in the past and at present. Relations have proceeded unevenly all along. Since the establishment of the LPDR on 2 December 1975, I have observed that Lao-Thai relations have deteriorated into complex and tense situations to the extent that on certain occasions we have used force against each other. But, our government has always adhered to the foreign policy and the principles of peace, friendship, fraternity, and good-neighborliness. Lao people have always regarded Thais as their closest neighbors and they have never had ill-intentions towards the Thai nation and people. Based on this, the Lao people have persisted in solving problems and conflicts. Our Lao Government and people believe the grudge, hostility, and suspicions about one another as well as the use of violent measures to threaten each other are now obsolete. These are all against the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries and the international trend. The true aspirations of the Lao as well as Thai people are to coexist peacefully, build and develop the economy and society, exchange visits to establish friendship and together defeat their common enemy, namely poverty.

We have made satisfactory achievements in implementing this foreign policy. For example, over past few years, Laos and Thailand have agreed to end armed conflict and have gradually solved remaining problems such as mutual distrust, exiled Lao rebels, the border problem, and problems in our economic relations. The peoples of the two countries are satisfied and have come to understand the significance of a regular exchange of visits at various levels, including state, government, and military. They have set up cooperation committees, friendship associations, and committees in charge of solving the border issue, serving as important apparatuses for settling problems. These organizations aim to create mutual trust. I believe that to guarantee durability, good relations between Laos and Thailand must be maintained on the basis of equality, mutual respect of one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity, friendship, and be mutually beneficial. Lao-Thai relations must aim for this, and I am convinced that they will certainly attain it.

[PASASON] Would you please explain the relations between the LPRP and the parties of fraternal countries in the past, for instance in the last five years?

[Thongloun] Since the founding of the LPDR, relations between the LPRP and the political parties of other countries throughout the world have continued to strengthen and develop. The LPRP has relations with more than 60 communist, workers, and progressive parties the world over so far. Relations with these political parties have been conducted through various means, for example in exchanges of delegations at various levels, and meetings to exchange views on the experiences of socioeconomic development in each country. These relations are both bilateral and multilateral. Our party has also sent delegations to attend congresses convened by many parties and to attend many important international conferences around the world.

In the last five years when numerous changes took place in many fraternal countries in Eastern Europe and Asia, our party came to understand the phenomena and readjusted our relations in line with the realities of these fraternal parties, on the basis of respect for their independence and self-determination. We sympathized with these fraternal parties, which faced confusion and difficulties. Even though some have not been able to continue normal relations, we have not severed our ties. On the contrary, we want to maintain ties, under present forms or any other for as long as they desire. As for relations with the communists, workers, and progressive parties in Western Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and other countries, our party continues to support their struggles for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

[PASASON] What will the foreign policy of our party and state be in the coming years of restructuring?

[Thongloun] In the past, the LPRP led our people in the struggle to attain independence. In particular, in the past 15 years, our party has become an important leading core in Lao society and has guided our country to continued progress. It has pursued a correct, just, and relevant policy in exploiting all our country's potential and capabilities to fulfill its obligations and tasks. Our party values new cotively implement the new economic structure and create favorable conditions for our country to prosper, our party's foreign policy must be modified to conform to realities. This means to create favorable international circumstances for our country's economic renovation, so as to engender the trust of friendly countries that have expressed interest in trading and investing in our country, and cooperating and coordinating with Dail sectors concerned in our society. At the same time, in implementing our foreign policy, we cannot afford to neglect safeguarding our country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In brief, it can be said that our foreign policy and diplomacy in the era of new concepts must enable us to accept assistance, support, cooperation, and investment from any foreign country all sectors concerned in our society. At the same time, in implementing our foreign policy, we cannot afford to neglect safeguarding our country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In brief, it can be said that our foreign policy and diplomacy in the era of new concepts must enable us to accept assistance, support, cooperation, and investment from any foreign country with grace and pride. At the same time, our foreign policy must be a reliable protection for our country, people, and new regime, acquired by our entire people with blood and tremendous tenacity.

Philippines

De Villa Sees Alliance With U.S. Continuing

HK2911111790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Manila, Nov 29 (AFP)—The Philippines will remain a U.S. ally while strengthening its own ability to handle external defense, armed forces chief General Renato de Villa said here Thursday.

Gen. de Villa, speaking a week before the expected resumption of talks on the future of major U.S. air and naval bases, told foreign correspondents that the Philippine military wants to be at par with neighboring countries' forces. But he cautioned that "we can only go so far as our country can support," and predicted that the alliance between Washington and Manila, which is troubled by armed rebellions and a shaky economy, will continue.

Gen. de Villa spoke as U.S. and Philippine technical panels began meeting here to discuss details of planned American troop reductions in the bases.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus expressed hope that the two countries could reach a "basic agreement" by January on the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, whose lease runs out on September 16, 1991.

Technical panels were thrashing out "the question of the levels of U.S. forces here, how many will be phased out... century.

Manila has sought "sovereign control" of Clark and four support facilities so the Philippine military could take over and some parts could be transformed for commercial use, but offered a five to seven-year extension for Washington to phase out of Subic.

Subic, which guards vital sealanes and is the main logistics and repair facility of the Japan-based U.S. 7th fleet, is considered the more important of the two major bases.

Gen. de Villa said both the Marxist-led insurgency and right- wing rebellions were irreversibly on the wane, but admitted that President Corazon Aquino's target of Subic, which guards vital sealanes and is the main logistics and repair facility of the Japan-based U.S. 7th fleet, is considered the more important of the two major bases.

Gen. de Villa said both the Marxist-led insurgency and right- wing rebellions were irreversibly on the wane, but admitted that President Corazon Aquino's target of crushing the communists by 1992 may be derailed by military unrest.

Military rebels led by dismissed Army colonel Gregorio Honasan have staged seven attempts to topple President Corazon Aquino since 1986. The communist New People's Army (NPA) has been waging a rural-based struggle since 1969.

Gen. de Villa, due to retire as armed forces chief in January, confirmed reports that the communists and rebel soldiers had forged a tactical alliance in Manila, but he was confident that the union cannot last.

He said the alliance was so far limited to the Young Officers Union [YOU], a military rebel faction led by fugitive Army major Abraham Purugganan, and the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the Manila unit of the NPA.

Top leaders of both rebel movements are wary of being publicly identified with the other group because "they are on opposite sides of the ideological fence," Gen. de Villa said, adding that "this kind of alliance... cannot be permanent."

In the spate of bombings that rocked Manila in September, Gen. de Villa said the YOU took care of planting explosives at luxury hotels while the communists targeted multinational corporations.

Gen. de Villa said the armed forces will undergo a major streamlining over the next two years with the splitting of its police and security functions.

He said a long-pending bill creating a totally civilian Philippine National Police (PNP) had been approved by both houses of congress and may be ready for Mrs. Aquino's signature before the year ends.

This would lop off about 40,000 men from the armed forces, particularly the constabulary, a paramilitary and police force which would be phased out over the next 24 months after the bill is signed into law.

The defense department will eventually oversee only the Army, Navy and Air Force, with a new department of the interior and local governments handling law and order matters.

The defense department currently controls the Army, Air Force, Navy and the constabulary, which in turn controls police nationwide while performing military functions.

ADB Approves First PRC Loan Since 'Massacre'

HK2911040490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Manila, Nov 29 (AFP)—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced here Thursday the approval of its first loan to China since the 1989 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators isolated Beijing from the international community.

The 50 million dollar loan to the Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) will help modernize small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises in five eastern provinces, a statement by the Manila- based bank said. It was the first ADB loan to China since the Beijing massacre led to a freeze on foreign lending to Beijing.

Hundreds, possibly thousands of demonstrators were killed when Chinese troops moved in to quell pro-democracy unrest in Beijing on June 4, 1989.

The massacre resulted in worldwide condemnation of China and a freeze on loans from industrial countries and multilateral institutions like the ADB.

The isolation began to ease earlier this year when Japan announced it would resume lending and the World Bank also agreed to relax the ban.

House Softens Stand on IMF Tax Measures

HK2911034090 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 90 p 8

[By staff members Rolando Pascual and Lito Zulueta]

[Text] Congress is set to adopt measures, including an "immediate adjustment of fuel prices" to at least P [Philippine peso] 11.52 per liter, to enable the government to finalize a program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and get fresh loans.

But on the eve of a crucial meeting scheduled today between President Aquino and legislators, House leaders insisted that additional taxes, an IMF precondition for new loans, would not be one of these measures. Instead, they said, they would move for a "restructuring" of the tax system by imposing a tax on "affluent consumption" as proposed earlier by Malacanang and Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Speaker Ramon Mitra and rep. Margarito Teves (Negros Oriental), House economic affairs committee chairman, nevertheless conceded that petroleum prices should be increaded to reflect its true cost.

Mitra, for one, had urged Congress to remove the current oil subsidy by stopping funding to the Oil Price Stabilization Fund [OPSF] and eventually abolishing it. "Let us remove the OPSF and allow gasoline prices to seek their own levels," he told a recent congressional forum adding that the continued subsidy "only exacerbates the deficit and diverts resources that would otherwise be used for infrastructure and livelihood projects."

"One-shot deal na lang d apat 'to [this should be a one-shot deal] considering that with the exception of Indonesia which produces oil, we have remained the only Asian country to have low fuel prices," Mitra said.

The Energy Regulatory Board had indicated it was likely to approve an increase of at least P2.65 per liter on fuel prices and thus raise the existing rates to P11.52 per liter.

In addition to tax on affluent consumption, Malacanang is also urging Congress to enact similar measures on windfall profits and a 5% across-the-board levy on all imports, except crude oil.

If Congress leaders agree to pass these measures, the government is expected, by tomorrow, to finalize a letter of intent [LOI] to a visiting IMF mission that will outline economic reforms it will undertake, according to Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao.

The LOI, he said, will replace the old Fund program cancelled last month because the Philippines failed to meet several key economic targets, especially on the ballooning budget deficit.

The release of $700 million in new loans and another $1.1 billion for debt reduction initiatives depends mainly on IMF's approval of the new program. Estanislao said the IMF wanted a further reduction of P13 billion in the deficit target for 1991, on top of the P55-billion cut in the combined budgetary shortfall of the national government, Central Bank, government financial institutions and government-owned or controlled firms.

Of the P13 billion, P8 billion is projected to come from the new tax measures being proposed by Malacanang, Estanislao said. He added the IMF conditions included a new petroleum price increase.

Aquino Views Government Decentralization Plan

HK2911044990 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0317 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Speech by President Corazon C. Aquino to the Provincial Board Members Association of the Philippines during its third national convention held at the Intercontinental Hotel Ballroom in Makati—live, in English; italicized portions in Tagalog]

[Text] Mr. Antonio Garcia de Escano, Secretary Luis Santos, participants to the third national convention of the Provincial Board Members Association of the Philippines [PBMAP], honoured guests, *my beloved partners*:

It is not enough to have restored democracy. We need to deepen the roots of democracy and give day to day meaning to its value. The benefits of democrary must seep down to our communities, especially to those in the countrysides. Its workings must be strengthened at the local government level, for it is this level that is in direct contact with our people.

This morning, therefore, I take this occassion to exhort all the members of local boards: *the provincial, city, and town councils* to rightfully and meaningfully assume the respective roles in our democracy—that of legislating for the rural communities.

Through decentralization and local autonomy, democracy reaches the countryside. This policy cannot be reversed and will be firmly in place before my term ends. [applause] I have been assured by the leadership of both chambers of Congress that the proposed local government codes, which I transmitted as an urgent certified bill in August of last year, will very soon be approved. [applause]

National agencies as well as local government units must therefore now be prepared to perform their proper functions under a decentralized government. The pilot decentralization program started last year, covering 18 provinces and four Metro Manila municipalities, was designed to help in this direction.

While we all prepare ourselves for the full implementation of decentralization and local autonomy, I hope that our provincial legislators are gearing themselves to perform their responsibilities. As provincial board members, you must increasingly realize the importance of your roles. You are the legislative branch of provincial government. Through the power of appropriation, you can shape and determine the speed of your own local development. The formulation of the budget is a single most powerful tool over which you can assert your right to bring local expenditures where people really need them.

The proliferation of supplemental budgets, a very common practice in local governments, makes a mockery of the budget developmental value and shows an unpreparedness to deal with the overall imperative of constituency needs. Supplemental budget opens the way for graft and corruption, and this is why I recommended in the local government code the passage of an annual budget and, at most, one supplemental budget to provide for contingencies.

Last May, I directed all departments involved in the delivery of basic services to instruct their agency-field personnel to report to their respective local chief executives so that the delivery of the needed services could be better coordinated and fast tracked. At the same time, I directed specific departments, principally the Department of Public Works and Highways; the Department of Transportation and Communication; the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports; and the Department of Health to sub-allocate their budgets by regions and then by provinces and cities.

The executive orders have already been issued to these departments. These should enable the local development councils, and subsequently the local consultative councils, to deliberate on the uses of, and priorities for, the fund.

Very shortly, therefore, when we start preparing for the 1992 budget, you will not only have local funds to finance local projects but you will also be given the responsibility of allocating national agency funds and pinpointing the projects to be funded as listed under your Annual Investment Plan or AIP. [applause]

Are you prepared for this job? Will the expected increase in your internal revenue allotments, your power to lend the local taxes the flexibility to borrow and the sub-allocation of selected national agency budgets to provinces and cities, we are making available to local governments the funds you say you don't have. [sentence as heard] [applause] Along this line, you have to deliberate and formally approve a blueprint for growth, so that you may effectively and judiciously handle this major infusion of funds.

You will need two basic plans: a socio-economic development plan which targets the improvement of your people's income and a (typical) development plan to ensure the protection of your constituency's living condition and the environment.

Do you have both ready? I have asked a lot of questions because I would like you to assure me that you can assert your rightful role and can show your constituents how responsive democracy works for them.

I came here this morning to deliver this message to you because I am confident that you can do what the people expect of you. I know that you are our democracy's crucial underpinning and that you shall not cease to support the national leadership in giving meaning and life to this democracy.

Finally, I understand there are a number of items that you wish me to bring up on this occassion. On the provincial board members role in local Kabisig [Partnership] projects, I am happy to hear that most, if not all of you, are eager to participate. I really appreciate your involvement in Kabisig projects, whether through your provincial board members association or as individual board members, so that you yourselves may help speed up the projects for your respective provinces. As for the other points you raised, I am directing Secretary Santos to study them and submit to me his recommendations as soon as possible. I congratulate you for working together, to share with each other your problems and their solutions. I also congratulate your national president, Board Member Antonio Garcia de Escano of Cebu and the other officers of the PBMAP for this successful convention.

Our projects will all succeed with your help. Long life to all. Good morning and thank you.

Troops Seize Communist Arms Shipment in Butuan

HK2911033190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[By Jun Villalba, Vincent Batic, and Ali Macabalang]

[Text] Butuan City—Army troopers have aborted an attempt to resupply communist guerillas fighting government forces in Northern Mindanao.

A belated military report said members of the 402nd Infantry Brigade on Saturday intercepted a huge shipment of ammunition and other war materiel in Barangay Taliman, about 11 kilometers from Butuan City.

Col. Sergio Belleza, 402 Infantry Brigade chief, said the shipment consisted of 5,626 M-60 bullets, 2,280 rounds of 30-caliber ammunition, 180 rifle grenades, 54 M-79 grenade launchers, a radio handset, 16 sacks of ammonium nitrate for the manufacture of landmines, 12 pairs of combat boots and two dozen canvas knapsacks and suspender belts.

In Makilala, North Cotabato, two Army soldiers were killed Tuesday in a five-four gunbattle with communist rebels that started at 5 in the afternoon.

Also Tuesday, two men were killed when a hand grenade they were carrying exploded during a scuffle inside a bus owned by the North Cotabato Transportation Co. Police said they have not determined if the two were members of the New People's Army [NPA].

The rebels had earlier warned bus operators they would burn their vehicles if they did not support the Welga ng Bayan [nationwide strike] called by the Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement] in Davao City. Some 15,000 workers attended the rally yesterday.

Military authorities in Cagayan, meanwhile, said they thwarted an attempt by rebels to bomb the telecommunications station in Solano and two other government offices.

Col. Miguel Fontanilla, Cagayan Valley Constabulary chief, said the three offices were "primary targets" for bombings by the guerillas, who had earlier ransacked and destroyed the Remo relay station in the town of Enrile.

In Balangiga, Eastern Samar, NPA rebels yesterday freed two Army troopers they had held captive for 85 days. Sgt. Jaime Carinal and Pfc. Narciso Yape, who were captured by the rebels in Marabut on Sept. 2, were released into the custody of a group of government officials and civic leaders in a simple ceremony.

The interception of the cargo of ammunition in Butuan was effected after the military was alerted about it by a deep-penetration agent, Belleza said. He said the cargo was found in a jeepney owned by Fr. Arturo Langit of the Tandag Parish Church in Surigao del Sur after the driver and five others fled on foot when the troopers ordered them to stop.

Belleza said he has ordered his men to closely inspect all vehicles going to the boundary of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur, where rebels are battling government troops.

Three Army battalions, supported by tanks, artillery and helicopter are fighting a big rebel force, headed by Frank Mejorada in the rebel stronghold in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. The military offensive was launched after the rebels overran a military outpost in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, last week.

On Tuesday, two Huey helicopters were fired upon by the rebels as they tried to evacuate wounded soldiers. The helicopters completed the mission without damage, the military said.

Four Communist Rebels Said Killed in Tarlac

HK2911051790 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 29 Nov 90 p 8

[By Fer Taboy, Romy Binungeal]

[Text] Angeles City. Four rebels were killed during an encounter between the Philippine Army and communist guerrillas in Tarlac last Monday, one week after the arrest of 13 New People's Army [NPA] officials in a military raid in Bataan. The 702d Army Brigade reported the recent encounters as part of the military's four-month offensive against the NPA in Luzon. Brigade commander Colonel Rene Dado said the fight occurred in Tarlac when operatives of the 24th Infantry Battalion were conducting a patrol at around 4:00 PM in barangay San Jose. After an hour-long battle, the NPA rebels fled, leaving behind a slain comrade while bringing along three others. A rebel identified as Cipriano Marciano, alias Comrade Anong, was captured.

This incident occurred after the military raided rebel camps in Bataan, Central Luzon, where five leaders, believed to be the masterminds of the nationwide strike, were arrested. Arrested in this raid at barangay Dona Francisco, Balanga and barangay Caprangan, Orani were Antonio Balse, alias Comrade Narding and Comrade Daniel, NPA secretary general of the Bataan Provincial

Party Committee [BPPC] Executive Committee; Vic Serrano, alias Comrade Paeng, former NPA chief who is presently suspended; Manolito Baor, alias Comrade Bog or Marco, BPPC political officer; Gilbert Dominguez, alias Comrade Magsa, intelligence officer of the NPA Provincial Operational Command and leader of the Bataan Provincial Operations Group [POG] sparrow unit of the province; Noel Mallari, alias Comrade Cesar, one of the POG leaders; and Melinda Hernandez, alias Comrade Rescy, communications and intelligence officer of the POG.

In this connection, Lt. Col. Enrique B. Galang Jr, Bataan Philippine Constabulry-Integrated National Police commandant, reported that the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA is experiencing big setbacks in the province because of the arrest of the said leaders.

Suspected Rebel Soldiers' Arsenal Discovered

HK2811100190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The military discovered a suspected rebel soldiers' arsenal in a raid on a businessman's office. Acting CIS [Criminal Investigation Service] Commanding Officer Colonel Everlino Nartates identified the businessman as Antonio Portillo, owner of the Portillo Auto Seat and Upholstery in Ermita, Manila. The authorities seized several high-powered guns, sophisticated communications equipment, and ammunition. Nartates suspected a possible conspiracy between the Portillos and the rebel soldiers, based on the intelligence information gathered by his men. According to Nartates, Portillo will face a charge of illegal possession of firearms. Here is part of Colonel Nartates' statement:

[Begin Nartates recording in English—in progress] ...that they may have some connections. That is why, when we received the report that high-powered firearms are kept or he is keeping high-powered firearms in a house, General Dumlao, our commanding general, immediately directed an operations for this. And so on the strength of a search warrant issued by Judge Francisco Brillantes, the CIS raided the place of Mr. Portillo and ...[end recording]

Two Rightist Rebels Disappear 'Mysteriously'

HK2911033290 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 29 Nov 90 p 4

[By reporter Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The detained former spokesman of the mutinous Young Officers' Union (YOU) has confirmed reports that two junior officers of the YOU had "mysteriously" disappeared, claiming that the two were in the custody of the military.

Constabulary Captain Diosdado Valeroso the former YOU spokesman who used the nom de guerre Captain Carlos Maglalang, told NEWSDAY during a brief visit at the Camp Crame stockade yesterday that Army First Lieutenant Renato Padua and a certain Lieutenant Pel had disappeared early last month. He said the two had not contacted any of their fellow rebel leaders since then.

Valeroso said the last time they heard from Padua was early last month when Padua went to Fort Bonifacio to talk to an unidentified Army major. Valeroso added that Padua went straight out of the camp after the meeting with the Army officer and there was no news about him since then. Valeroso said Padua was arrested by military operatives outside the Fort Bonifacio Camp.

At the same time, Valeroso challenged Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos and General Renato S. De Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, to present the six other rebel military men which the military claimed to have captured.

"The thing is they don't really have these people with them," said Valeroso, claiming that the military is only using the alleged capture of the six rebel military men to "create a wedge between the underground and aboveground forces of the YOU."

Earlier, Ramos admitted during a news conference that they are using the captured rebel military men as spies to track down Army Major Abraham Purungganan and other YOU leaders.

Ramos even said that the military will soon arrest coup plotters Domingo Calajate, Billy Bibit and Purugganan because of the information passed on to the military by their "deep penetration" agents.

Valcroso, however, dismissed Ramos's statement as a "mere bluff" designed to create confusion among the YOU leadership and members.

Meanwhile, Constabulary agents seized Tuesday night several high-powered firearms and ammunitions from a businessman during a raid in a suspected safe-house of military rebels in Ermita.

Colonel Everlino Nartatez, the deputy chief of the Criminal Investigation Service (CIS), said an Uzi automatic pistol, an armalite rifle, carbines and several pistols were taken from the house of Antonio Portillo at 1241 General Luna St. in Ermita.

Release of Additional Calamity Fund Approved

HK2911032790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 90 p 7

[By Lito Zulueta]

[Text] President Aquino and the Cabinet yesterday approved the release of an additional P [Philippine peso] 112.2 million from the calamity fund for the rehabilitation of areas damaged by typhoon 'Ruping.'

The President also approved an P8.1-billion financial and housing assistance for 35 provinces and subprovinces declared calamity areas as a result of the typhoon.

The release of P112.2 million brings to P219 million the total disbursements from the calamity fund for typhoon-stricken areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

In a report to the President, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said most of the funds will go to relief and to the restoration of public utilities.

The P219-million fund is distributed as follows P100 million will go to the Department of Public Works and Highways, P25 million to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, P20 million to the Department of Education, and P74 million to local government units.

Ramos said Cebu province, including its five cities, will receive P12.5 million, the biggest slice from the total release, followed by Negros Occidental, including its six cities, which received P9.1 million.

Presidential Coordinating Secretary Vicente Jayme reported that the financial and housing institutions have expanded their programs for the rehabilitation of the typhoon-ravaged areas. The package amounts to at least P6.1 million.

The Development Bank of the Philippines. Philippine National Bank and the Land Bank, Jayme said, have prepared lending programs for small and medium enterprises. The Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System have also drawn up a P3-billion lending program for its members.

Thailand

Aviation Department Analyzes U.S. Attitude

BK2811110990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 p B2

[Article attributed to the Department of Aviation, entitled "How the U.S. Took THAI on Torturous Course" citing "the chronology of events leading to the termination of the 1979 air service agreement between the United States and Thailand"]

[Text] Thailand and the United States signed the first bilateral air service agreement in February 26, 1947. When Thai Airways International [THAI] wanted to expand its route to Seattle via Tokyo in 1979, it was necessary for the agreement in 1979, it was necessary for the agreement to be revised. The United States took the opportunity to demand the following:

—Frequency: The old agreement was based on the principle that the US carriers were allowed to determine their flight frequencies, taking into consideraton the appropriate traffic volume between Thailand and the United States. Should the government of one party deem that the frequencies were not suitably allocated, the carriers should make change in their schedules.

The US side wanted to amend the new agreement under which the carriers might be allowed to determine their flight frequencies without any interference from both governments.

—Cargo flights: The old agreement gave priority to the air cargo service between Thailand and the United States, while the cargo service between Thailand and other points in the third countries should be considered as secondary targets.

The US side wanted a new principle under which the US carriers should be given a free choice to handle cargo service between Thailand and the other points in the third countries, a proposal that did not come under the universal practice of air cargo service agreements. The result was that any US carrier could fly to Bangkok without any frequency restrictions, and handle passenger and cargo between Thailand and the third countries without any restrictions either.

In return, the US extended its generosity by restricting Thai Airways International's flights to Seattle via Tokyo to a maximum of four flights a week. The reason given was that the Tokyo airport was faced with shortage of fuel and crowded capacity, the same reasons which Tokyo gave for restricting the flight frequencies of US airliens. And the US used these very same reasons to impose the restrictions on THAI, although it promised to ease the restrictions once the situation at the Tokyo airport improved.

The Thai delegation then was not in a position to make any bargain, for THAI was eager to expand its service operation into Seattle, while Pan Am, the US airline, was showing signs that it was about to terminate its Bangkok route. The Thai team went ahead to strike the air service agreement with the US counterpart for the reason that, despite the absence of any restrictions on the US carriers, the market was not large enough for the US carriers to dominate the scene. Besides, the Thai side believed that the US would ease its restrictons on THAI once the Tokyo airport improved its fuel supply and traffic as promised.

So a new Thai-US air service agreement was concluded in 1979, replacing the 1947 agreement.

Up until 1988, Thailand had been trying to open the negotiations with the US, so that the restrictions imposed on THAI flights to the US would be lifted as promised by the US. Both countries should have equal air service rights, now that the Tokyo airport had resolved its problems. Both the US and Japanese airlines gradually increased their frequencies between Tokyo and Seattle. But the US would not ease the restrictions placed on THAI.

In 1984 the US agreed to allow THAI to increase its frequency to Seattle by another fight to a total of five flights per week. But the condition was that THAI would not be allowed to fly from Tokyo to other destinations in the US for three years, and that the matter would not be raised for negotiations for three years.

The US position ran counter to the spirit of equal partnership in air service agreement between the two countries because the US airlines continued to enjoy no restrictions in their flights to Bangkok, as opposed to the severe restrictions placed on THAI. The record spoke for itself: by 1988 three US airlines were operating on the US-Thailand routes, with a combined frequency of 21 flights a week—five times more than THAI's frequency to Seattle.

The only way left for Thailand to terminate the yoke was to scrap the 1979 bilateral air service agreement. The rule should be rewritten so that the US will no longer be able to take advantage of Thailand. The only way the Thai team could persuade its US counterpart to be rational was a threat to tear up the 1979 agreement.

Permission was sought from the Cabinet that if the negotiations with the US failed to make any progress, both parties would say goodbye to bilateral air services. The Cabinet agreed. In March 1988 it assigned the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Foreign Ministry to negotiate with the US and strike a deal that would bring justice to Thailand. If necessary, the Cabinet agreed, the 1979 bilateral air service agreement could be terminated to pave way for a new agreement.

The Thai delegation met the US counterpart twice, each time asking the US to lift the restrictions placed on THAI. The US would not only budge, but came up with several conditions, such as a) if the restrictions were to be lifted, it could be done seven years later, not abruptly, and b) Thailand must allow the US airlines a free hand to handle its ground operations in the Bangkok airport, provide import tariff exemption to equipment brought in by the US airlines for the purpose, and computerized reservations system in the Thai market.

These conditions could not be accepted by the Thai party because Thailand was arguing for equal air service rights, and not other interests.

In the absence of this basic principle on the part of the US, Thailand decided to terminate its air service agreement, signed on December 7, 1979, with the US by submitting a notice to the US Embassy in Bangkok on October 31, 1989. The termination would go into effect on November 2, 1990—one year after the US Embassy was notified about the Thai decision.

Before the expiry of the 1979 air service agreement, the US approached Thailand to open new negotiatons so that air service between the two countries would continue. The US position did not change: it wanted to continue the 1979 agreement, drafted at a time when Thailand was not in a position to bargain against the US and THAI was struggling to enhance its operation as the major airline in the region.

It marked the first time since 1979 that the US made the first approach to Thailand to open the negotiation. The reason was quite evident: The US would stand to suffer, more than Thailand, in the event that the bilateral air service agreement was terminated because four of its airlines—United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Delta and Federal Express—are having 37 flights a week to Bangkok, compared with THAI with four flights to Seattle.

The Thai Position

What was the situation afterwards and the position of the Thai side?

Upon its notification to the US in October 31, 1989, the Thai side, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Foreign Ministry, the Department of Aviation and Thai Airways International, sought to change the "unfair" conditions in the air service agreement. The new agreement should not place any restrictions on Thai Airways International, which should also be allowed to fly to other points in the US.

Instead of reducing its advantageous grip on Thailand upon learning about the termination of the air service agreement, the US airlines sought to flex their muscles by almost doubling the flight frequencies between the US and Thailand, from a combined 21 flights a week to 37 flights a week. The emphasis was not on the air service between the US and Thailand, but between Japan/South Korea/Taiwan—the middle points between the routes—and Thailand. This has created disadvantages to Thai Airways International, because Japan, South Korea and Taiwan represent its money-making markets.

The disadvantages are as follows:

—The Bangkok-Tokyo route operated by THAI, which used to grow by 30 percent a year, has suddenly plunged to a growth rate of two percent after capacity dumping by the US airlines. This makes it inconvenient for THAI to fly to Tokyo.

—THAI used to be a market leader in the Bangkok-Tokyo route, capturing a share of 43.8 percent. By 1986 its market share fell to 28 percent and the airline was ranked third in this market. The Japanese airlines also faced the same predicament, with the market share falling to 28 percent. At the same time, the US airlines expanded their operations by 3.5 times, raising their combined market share from 1.6 percent to the No. 1 spot with 37 percent.

—The Thailand-Taiwan and Thailand-Korea markets are facing a similar situation, with the US airlines, for all their competitive advantage, intending to squeeze the best deal from the current air service agreement to dump the markets.

—The capacity dumping by the US airlines has made it difficult for the airlines of Thailand, Japan, South

Korea and Taiwan to develop their markets accordingly, with the US airlines taking away a bigger market share.

—In the longer run, Thailand will be forced to depend on the US airlines for the services in the region. This is a risky scenario because the US airlines do not have any obligations to stick to this market. If other markets provide more opportunity, the US airlines would be willing to move away without consideration of the damaging consequences that might occur to Thailand or the other trading partners.

Under the circumstances, Thailand will be faced with a gloomy prospect in its aviation development if it continues to provide the US with unrestricted flight frequencies or cargo services. So the Thai delegation called on the US to agree to the equality principle in allowing both governments to determine the capacity or frequency of flights operated by the airlines of both countries, which should be done in such a way that meets the demand, passengers or cargo, of the market in the region. This is a standard practice in international aviation agreements.

Specifically, the Thai delegation has established the following positions:

—The US should lift its restrictions placed upon Thai Airways International's air service between Tokyo and Seattle;
—The US should give THAI more flexibility in adding other destinations in the US, making it also possible for the Thai airline to fly from the other points inside the US to Canada or Europe;
—The governments of both countries should have equal rights in determining the capacity and frequency of the airlines;
—The US should agree on an acceptable principle in regulating the passenger and cargo services, particularly between the transit points.

The latest negotiations between Thailand and the US, held between October 30 and November 1, broke down. The US wanted to maintain the status quo with the 1979 agreement, while trying to ease its position by making some concessions on a temporary basis. But the Thai side wanted to include a new agreement on capacity and frequency in the accord. The result was no agreement.

It reached a point that the 1979 bilateral air service agreement should be allowed to expire. But to prevent disruption of continuity of services, the US airlines will be allowed their 38-flight-a-week-operations until March 1991, consisting of 31 passenger flights and seven cargo flights a week. The condition attached is that THAI should be entitled to similar aviation rights.

After March 1991, if the temporary aviation agreement is to be continued, Thailand will allow the US airlines to operate 28 flights a week—21 for passenger and seven for cargo services. And the condition is that Thai Airways International must receive the same treatment.

No impact on Thailand The US airlines flying to Thailand are not interested in serving the US-Thailand routes as much as servicing the markets between Japan/Korea/Taiwan and Thailand, which are much more lucrative. If the US airlines discontinue their services between the transit points and Thailand, Thai Airways International will be able to make up the absence of the US service in these regional markets in a profitable manner. This is because THAI will shift the aircraft currently being used in the US route to these markets. Simultaneously, the Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese airlines will also be able to expand their operations in their routes to Bangkok.

In fact, all the Asian airlines involved were capable of increasing their capacities immediately after November 2, 1989 when the 1979 agreement formally expired, but no action was taken as a sincere gesture to the US airlines. The Tourism Authority of Thailand and the Association of Thai Travel Agencies have already been informed about the Thai stand on the aviation agreement.

Transport Official Views U.S. Air Talks

BK2811033590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 pp B1, B12

[Text] Senior Thai officials have countered a clarification on the Thai-US air talks issued by Washington last week, calling it as just "half truths, nothing but half truths". They insisted that there were still other undisclosed conditions proposed by the American counterparts to maintain the advantages currently enjoyed by US flag carriers in bilateral air service arrangements.

Speaking for the first time to explain the Thai stand during the last negotiation in Washington earlier this month, Mohidon Chanthrangkun, deputy permanent secretary of transport and communications, and a senior official talked to THE NATION to disclose what, they said, had not been mentioned by the US clarification.

They pointed out that there had also been attempts to create an impression that the Thai side had not negotiated in good faith, which resulted in the eventual termination of the Thai-US air transport agreement, effective from November 3.

There was also suggestion from some quaters that Mahidon, leader of the Thai delegation, should not be appointed to head future talks. But the senior official said he was not alone in deciding the course of the negotiations. "The Thai stand, set by a committee whose members were from various agencies, had also been approved at the highest government level," he said.

After the talks broke down early this month, the airlines of both countries can continue their services until the end of March next year so that winter air traffic is not disrupted. If the two sides fail to produce a new agreement, four US airlines, including one cargo carrier, cannot fly to Bangkok. Thai Airways International [THAI] has to discontinue its current seven weekly flights to Seattle, four via Tokyo and three via Taipei.

The US carriers—United, Northwest, Delta and Federal Express—stand to lose more than Bt7 billion a year from the traffic mainly generated in the sector covering Thailand and Far East destinations. THAI has made it clear that it does not want to fly to the US as the route has not been profitable.

There were two more US airlines, American Airlines and Continental, which wanted to fly to Bangkok, but they were not ready in time. If a new agreement could not be worked out, all of them would be out of the Thai skies.

Foreseeing these troubles, there were reports that the US had formally approached the Thai Embassy in Washington to resume negotiations. The Thai side made it known that this round of talks must be held in Bangkok.

During the previous talks, when the two sides traded charges and countercharages, the Thai side had yielded to most of the US requests even if some of them were not acceptable to Thailand, according to Mahidon. Such a stand was based on the desire to maintain good bilateral relations. But his team could not agree to any conditions which did not lead to permanent equal aviation rights.

What the Thai side had explained to the US team, he said, was that American carriers could carry unlimited passengers from US-originated embarkation points to Thailand and that there were no limitations on the flights as well. But Thailand cannot continue to allow US carriers to pick up passengers along the way, such as Tokyo, Taipei and Seoul, or others, generally known as Fifth Freedom Traffic, to and from Thailand.

Such a practice, said Mahidon, has not only been affecting Thai Airways International, but representing the intention of the US and its carriers to take advantage of Thailand under the clauses stipulated in the bilateral agreement concluded in 1979, which allowed US airlines to operate an unlimited number of flights to Bangkok.

The US delegation had tried every means not to discard the 1979 agreement while whatever measures proposed to satisfy the Thailand's demand would be just temporary. In the end, Washington still wants the retention of the 1979 accord, which leads to endless advantages for US carriers, he said.

The Thai side wants a permanent solution to the existing unfair clauses, he pointed out. "If the US sincerely wants to dispel Thailand's concern, then there should be no reason for it to insist on reverting to the 1979 agreement. Moreover, a Thai proposal will lead to the ability of the two sides to control the capacity and flight frequencies, in line with normal market mechanism."

To demonstrate its good faith, Mahidon said the US should not have drastically boosted the flight frequencies during the past year and reduced the growth of competing airlines. "In our view, there was no reason for the US not to accept our proposal, which would have led to a new and fair agreement," he said.

The US had earlier claimed that it had already agreed to grant five flights to THAI to Seattle through Tokyo. "But a truth undisclosed during the clarification is that the US came up with a new condition for our delegation to give a commitment that THAI must not operate more than seven flights weekly through Tokyo to Seattle in 1992, and not more than nine flights weekly in 1996," he said.

"The concealment of this condition proposed by the US delegation truly reflects whether Washington is sincere with Thailand on this issue," explained Mahidon.

Another condition imposed by the US team was that the Thai government must allow American carriers to operate, without restrictions, the computerized reservation system (CRS) in Thailand. "This further underscored our belief that the US side had not conducted negotiations in good faith and with sincerity. It always came up with new conditions when we were about to accept others," he said.

There was one offer from the US side during the negotiations in September last year. Washington suggested that THAI can have an additional landing point in the US but, in return, it required the Thai team to sign a memorandum on airport security arrangement.

The gist of the memorandum is that whenever the US aviation authorities consider security arrangements at Don Muang International Airport inadequate for American carriers, they will not permit THAI to fly to the US until they are satisfied with measures to improve security.

This condition was raised when the Thai delegation wanted Washington to agree to capacity determination. Mahidon disclosed that there was another condition from the US when it was willing to accept the capacity predetermination which enabled Thailand to control the number of flights operated by American carriers.

That condition, he said, was that the Thai government must withdraw the notice sent earlier to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) about the termination of the 1979 agreement.

Besides, the Airports Authority of Thailand must grant US airlines ground handling rights at Don Muang, though these privileges had not been accorded to other airlines. Mahidon disclosed that the US side further demanded an exemption of customs duties, taxes on airline printed materials and on airline income and business taxes.

"What was more strange was that the US further suggested that the two sides should meet again within 1993 to abolish the capacity pre-determination so that the 1979 agreement could be fully in force again. This condition was not revealed during the US clarification, but it clearly shows that Washington had not truly acceded to our demand as claimed," said Mahidon.

The US still believes that if its carriers cannot fly to Bangkok the traffic cannot be absorbed by other airlines.

Mahidon countered that this could be proved wrong as other regional airlines are prepared to step up their services.

THAI To Boost Service if Air Talks Fail

BK2911040990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 90 p B1

[Text] Thai Airways International [THAI] is ready to offer additional flight services to passengers travelling between Thailand and the United States through an interline agreement it will conclude with other airlines in the event that a new Thai-US air service agreement cannot be worked out by the end of March next year.

The resoluteness reflects the confidence that flight services between Thailand and the US will not be disrupted for lack of a Thai-US air service agreement because THAI will be flying the passengers or cargo to the transit points in both the Far East and Europe, from where they may be transferred to other airlines before heading to the final destinations in the United States.

Mahidon Chanthrangkun, chief of the Thai negotiating team, discounted as "half truths" the US claim that without the presence of American airlines, cargo and passenger services on the Thai-US route would be severely disrupted, arguing that the US airlines account for only 15 per cent of the market share, or about 56,000 passengers, of all the 300,000 passengers accounted for in a year.

He stressed that if the services for this 15 percent market share suddenly disappear, the passengers can still travel between Thailand and the US through other airlines.

Thailand and the United States are currently locked in a bitter dispute over the bilateral aviation agreement, under which, Mahidon argues, the US airlines are not subject to any restrictions in their flight frequencies to Bangkok, as opposed to the severe restrictions imposed on THAI.

A series of failures in the negotiations led Thailand to terminate the 1979 bilateral air transport agreement, which went into official effect on November 2, one year after the US Embassy in Bangkok was notified about the Thai decision.

Without the air service agreement, airlines of the two countries are now operating on a temporary basis, and it has been agreed that March 31, 1991 will be the day on which flights between the two countries will be discontinued.

The Thai delegation, which also consists of representative from THAI has already drawn up a contingency plan in the event the THAI can no longer fly to the US, and will have to increase its flight services on the Bangkok-Tokyo, Bangkok-Taipei and Bangkok-Seoul routes to make up for the absence of services by US airlines from these regional markets.

On the Bangkok-Tokyo route, United Airlines and Northwest Airlines carry about 2,884 passengers a week. In case the flight services for these 2,884 passengers a week are terminated, THAI will step up its operations on this route, which will result in 645 more passengers per week.

This will be coupled with an increase in the Nagoya service by another 247 passengers a week through an Airbus and another Tokyo flight by 1,998 passengers a week through a Boeing 747, bringing the total capacity to 3,522 passengers/week.

Still, Japan Airlines will cut back its services by 118 passengers a week, compared with a cutback of 238 passengers a week by All Nippon Airlines and 100 passengers a week by Iraqi Airlines. The total available seats on the Bangkok-Tokyo route will be 3,066, while the estimated one-way traffic between Japan and Thailand this year will reach 560,000 passengers.

On the Bangkok-Taipai route, United Airlines carries 700 passengers a week, against 702 for Delta Airlines. The disappearance of the 1,402-seat capacity will be offset by a 2,092-seat capacity planned by THAI, which plans to add another 1,458 seats a week to this route in six flights through a DC10, apart from adding one more flight to Taipei through a DC10 and three more flights to Kaohsiung with a combined capacity of 634 passengers a week.

This does not take into account a plan of Eva Airways, which belongs to the Taiwanese-based Evergreen Group, and China Airlines to fly to Bangkok with a combined capacity of 2,130 passengers a week by the middle of next year. The one-way Bangkok-Taipei route this year is expected to have 370,000 passengers.

On the Bangkok-Seoul route, Northwest Airlines is handling 900 passengers a week, compared with 180 for Delta Airlines. The halting of services for these 1,080 passengers a week will be replaced by a capacity of 2,437 passengers a week provided by THAI (1,687) and Aseana Airlines (750). THAI plans to add another flight to Seoul with the AB6, and another seven flights with the Airbus 313. The one-way Bangkok-Seoul route will handle about 100,000 passengers this year.

Mahidon argued that the failure of the negotiations can be attributed to "over-confidence" on the part of the US side that no other airlines will be able to make up the absence of American airlines if the bilateral air service agreement is terminated.

"It is a grave mistake on the part of the United States in believing that others are inferior to it in spite of the fact that THAI and other airlines are capable of moving in to fill in the flight services of the US airlines without any problems. We have carefully planned this in advance," he said.

The crux of the problem in the negotiations is that Thailand wants to terminate the 1979 air serrvice agreement with the US and draft a brand new agreement on a permanent basis, instead of extending it to a couple of years before negotiations will again be needed. The old agreement is not fair because it allows the US airlines to dump their capacity in transit points such as Tokyo, Taipei or Seoul and makes it difficult for THAI or other Asian airlines to expand their business.

"If the US is sincere in striking an air service agreement with Thailand, there is no reason for it to stubbornly go back on the old agreement. Both parties should have equal rights in predetermining the frequency and capacity of the airlines, in line with what is the universal practice," Mahidon said.

In regard to worries expressed in some quarters that THAI and other airlines will not be able to replace the services by US airlines, Mahidon said that such anxieties might be valid, but only when the number of flights by American carriers rises to over 60 a week.

"If that is allowed to happen, then it will be truly difficult for THAI and other airlines to cope with. But we have to prevent it from happening because US airlines will then have a formidable bargaining power," he said.

Singapore Airlines is not happy as well with the prospect of increased competition from US airlines in the Far East-ASEAN sector, they said. Other airlines based in the region also share this view.

Minister Welcomes U.S. Cigarette Decision

BK2611014590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 90 p A3

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on yesterday welcomed the US decision to terminate a trade investigation of Thailand following Bangkok's commitment to open the Thai cigarette market to American products.

"We are pleased with the USTR (US Trade Representative) decision and feel very much relieved," Amaret told THE NATION in a telephone interview.

US Trade Representative Carla Hills on Friday announced the termination of the investigation, which began May 25, 1989 in response to a petition by the US Cigarette Export Association.

Yesterday was the deadline for Hills to recommend final action on the US tobacco industry's request. "I'm pleased that Thailand has complied with our longstanding request to allow foreign cigarette manufacturers to compete on a fair basis with the government's cigarette monopoly," Hills said.

Amaret described the cigarette dispute as his "most serious problem" because the United States had threatened trade retaliation allowed under Article 301 of the US trade act.

Thailand's decision to lift its ban on foreign cigarettes followed a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) panel' s ruling in favour of the United States.

Amaret said US officials have accepted Thailand's firm stand against cigarette advertising. "I consider this a victory for our ministries working on this matter," he said.

Authorities Deport 724 Illegal Burmese

BK2611011790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Ranong—More than 700 illegal Burmese immigrants were rounded up by the authorities and deported last week, reliable sources say.

Informed sources said a three-day crackdown that began last Tuesday netted 724 illegal Burmese, including 496 men and 228 women. Also, 120 children under 12 were taken into custody with their parents.

They said the Burmese men worked as cheap construction labourers, at the fish market or as hawkers and the women were prostitutes.

The sources also said that a labour official stopped district officials who led a raid on a saw mill here on Thursday, claiming that some of the Burmese workers there had work permits. The case was referred to the provincial governor.

The crackdown reflected a change in government policy towards the Burmese following the hijacking of a Thai Airways International's flight to Rangoon on November 10.

From 15,000-20,000 Burmese, including about 4,000 students, were estimated to be living and working illegally in this southern province.

A recent health survey conducted by the Public Health Ministry shows that most of the Burmese prostitutes here are infected with Human Immuno-deficiency Virus, the virus that causes AIDS. The province has the highest rate of HIV infection in the country.

Burma Agrees To Release 50 Thai Fishermen

BK2611080390 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Myanmar [Burma] has agreed to release Thai fishermen detained in that country—50 in all—the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon [Rangoon], which is arranging for the repatriation of the released fishermen, reports.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a release that two batches of Thais will be flown back home on 26 November and 3 December. Released from jails of Myanmar and due to be repatriated on 26 November are 23 crew members of the Sutthi Phong Chai, Thara Samut, Bo Bunchai, Pho Phanit, Phunsap, Phon Chai

Charoen, Nap Charoen, Kopkan Nawi, Phet Mongkhon, Uchai Kong Kangwan, Thida Nawin, and Kho Phon Rungruang fishing trawlers.

The released fisherman will be flown back to Thailand by Thai Airways International flight TG 306 scheduled to arrive in Bangkok at 6 PM on Monday 26 November.

The second batch numbering 17 [as heard] comprises crew members of the Thida Charoen Chai, Khet Udom Chai, Kaeo Khon Lek, Lim Sakun Kaeo Nuan, and Thawisin trawlers. They are due back in Bangkok on board Thai Airways International flight TG 306 at 6 PM on 3 December.

Land Department Freezes Site of SRV Embassy

BK2811143390 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, told reporters on 27 November that the Land Department had frozen the land of the Vietnamese Embassy. This is because Vietnam has refused to return the land of the Thai Embassy in Ho Chi Minh City to the Thai Government by referring to the communist law holding that all land belongs only to the government. The freezing of the land of the Vietnamese Embassy is considered a normal diplomatic practice of reciprocity.

Regarding the land of the Thai Embassy in Ho Chi Minh City, the Thai side still regards it as the land of the Thai Government and holds that the land issue is over.

Prachit Rotchanaphruk, director general of the Treaty and Legal Department, said that the Thai side had raised this issue for talks with Vietnam. Vietnam, however, insisted that it could not return the land. Therefore, the Thai side will not raise the issue of seeking the return of the land. If Vietnam officially asks for negotiations to seek the return of the land of its embassy in Thailand, the Thai side will accept the matter for reconsideration.

Ministry Readies To Aid Workers if War Erupts

BK2911074790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek has announced that the government is aware of the possibility of the Persian Gulf situation intensifying after 15 January 1991 as the United States has set a deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry yesterday called a meeting of heads of divisions of the ministry. Chaired by Deputy Permanent Secretary to Foreign Ministry Pracha Khunakasem, it discussed measures to protect and assist Thais who are still in Iraq and Kuwait if the Gulf situation worsens or if fighting erupts.

The discussion also covered measures to evacuate Thais from the Middle East. At present, there are 300 Thai workers in Iraq and 19 in Kuwait. Help will also be given to Thai workers or residents in the countries neighboring Iraq and Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry will propose guidelines to protect, assist, and repatriate Thais to the ad hoc committee to help them carry out their duties.

Improvements in Bilateral Ties With Laos Viewed

BK2911033190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 90 p A11

[Article by Athwibun Sisuworanan: "Thai-Lao Relations: More Brotherly?"]

[Text] Thai-Lao relations seem to proceed at a smart pace after Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan visited Vientiane last week. The visit helped to guide and improve bilateral ties, introduced new forms of cooperation and strengthened mutual trust. Nevertheless outstanding issues which have always been a thorn in the side of the two countries are still visible. And Thailand, as an "elder brother" to the poor land-locked nation, seems to have the capability to remove them.

The foreign minister who just took the office in August was attempting to continue a policy laid down by his predecessor; to increase mutual trust and nurture better understanding between the leadership of the two neighbouring countries.

As a new face in office, one of Subin's objectives during his two-day trip there was to introduce himself to the government leadership in Vientiane. Getting acquainted with Lao leaders is vital to the new foreign minister simply because he is initiating an ambitious programme between the two nations in which Thailand's longterm policy on energy would greatly benefit.

As the region is struggling to loosen itself from ideological conflicts and moves towards peaceful cooperation, Subin dreams about reactivating the Mekong Committee, a United Nations sponsored regional cooperation among countries sharing the international river. The committee has long planned to carry out development programmes, particularly the building of hydroelectric dams, using the river and its tributaries. Surplus electricity from the projects would satisfy Thailand's need for the energy which at the moment can absorb up to 1,000 megawatts more each year.

The leadership in Vientiane rendered a warm welcome to Subin. He was given an opportunity to meet acting President Phoumi Vongvichit; he had fruitful talks on security and economic cooperation with his counterpart, Phoun Sipaseut; and discussed ways to expand trade links with Minister of Economic and Foreign Relations Phao Bounnaphon.

Results from the talks were promising; both sides agreed that current Thai-Lao relations are satisfactory and that expanding and enriching them is a "must" for mutual benefit.

The assessment is significant in itself in view of the fact that one of the fiercest border battles between the two brotherly countries in recent times ended just two years ago. And before that they were locked in conflict for a decade which eventually climaxed in a fierce and bloody border clash in Ban Romklao in early 1988 when both sides fought for sovereignty over a strip of land at the border between Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury province. But all that is history now.

In addition, Thailand has agreed to give assistance worth Bt7 million to help train Lao officials and students, complying with Laos' request for stronger ties in scientific and technological cooperation. Two additional air routes between Vientiane and Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai will be opened in order to promote Laos' tourism industry.

Both sides have also agreed to join forces in trying to build a hydroelectric dam on a Mekong tributary, the Nam Theun river, in Laos' Savannakhet province.

Analysts in Vientiane believed that, apart from the achievement, another significant step Subin took during the visit was that he helped ensure a continuing process of Thai-Lao cooperation. Subin tried to restore confidence among the leaders in Vientiane, reassuring them that the continuity of Thai friendly policy toward Laos would not be disrupted again.

It is well understood that the current Thai policy on Laos depends much on the personalities of the leaders in Bangkok, particularly those of the Thai military. Lao leaders explicitly expressed their concern after ex-army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who was an advocate of peaceful cooperation with Laos after the 1988 border incident, resigned from the government and Army Chief General Suchinda Khraprayun's lack of interest in the neighbour's affairs. [sentence as published]

In this respect, Subin, whose proposal on bilateral cooperation was welcome among the Lao leaders, showed that he would constructively pursue the policy and the Foreign Ministry would take an active role in its implementation.

Lao officials said Subin's business-like attitude would help regulate the relationship which used to be compartmentalized under various agencies.

"The visit is a milestone in current Thai-Lao relations which indicates that it is likely to expand greatly in the near future," Phoun Sipaseut told reporters after his talks with Subin.

However, the old problems are still there. Again, Lao leaders raised problems of security along the common border for discussion and asked Thailand for a helping hand to jointly tackle them as soon as possible. These are a combination of chronic illegal cross-border activities of smugglers and black marketeers, bandits and rightwing insurgents which have been continuing to undermine Vientiane's rule since the Pathet Lao communist movement took power in December 1975.

The worry of leaders in Vientiane is understandable. The Lao communist government suspects that these cross-border activities have been sponsored by Thai authorities who longed to see the communist regime toppled. Even though ideological confrontation between the two countries was over, some of Lao leaders seem to believe that the subversive activities of the right-wing Lao guerrillas persist at least because Thai authorities at the local level turn a blind eye towards them or even make personal benefit from their illegal trade.

Other than deeming that the activities are undermining Laos' budding free market and depriving the government of revenue from import tax, Lao leaders suspect that income from the smuggling goes to financing antigovernment groups which have operated lucrative businesses along the border marked by the Mekong River. Many Lao officials are also being lured into the activities through bribery, leading to serious corruption within the apparatus of the Lao revolutionary party and the bureaucracy.

"There is no doubt that if Thailand and Laos could completely resolve the illegal cross-border activities as well as the border dispute at Ban Romklao, our trade and economic cooperation would be developed far better than what it is now," said Vanheuang Vongvichit, spokesman for the Lao Foreign Ministry.

A Thai delegate who accompanied Subin, admitted that the activities were the top concerns of Lao leaders raised during the talks. He added that he disagreed with Laos' position of resolving these problems as a precondition for close cooperation. "Maybe the cart was put before the horse," he said.

Nikhom Tantemsap, Thai ambassador to Laos, said Thailand could show its sincerity in forging closer cooperation with Laos by abolishing the import ban on certain Lao agricultural products and reducing the transport charges for Laos' exports in transit via Thailand to third countries. These were indeed Laos' two major standing requests to Thailand.

"The policy could be adjusted and changed if we really want to show we care about our brother country," Nikhom said, adding that it was a matter of Thailand's political will which involves to a certain extent, domestic politics.

"Some people would be affected by the policy shift. That is what I call domestic politics," the ambassador said.

Teachers Federation Protests Chaloem Appointment

BK2611011590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 90 p 1

[Excerpt] The Federation of Elementary Education Teachers Associations of Thailand [FEETAT] has protested against the appointment of Chaloem Yubamrung as a Deputy Education Minister, claiming he is a troublemaker.

In a statement at the weekend, the FEETAT said Police Captain Chaloem is "not at all suitable" to look after the Education Ministry after making disputes with many people, including Cabinet members and military leaders.

The teachers federation said another politician, who used to be a teacher or academic, should have been appointed to the post instead to be recognised by teachers throughout the country. It said Pol Capt Chaloem might cause confusion and rifts among teachers nationwide. [passage omitted]

King Grants Audience to Army Officials 28 Nov

BK2911010790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 90 pp A1, A2

[Excerpts] The top five army generals and the First Army Region commander gathered in Nong Khai yesterday for an audience with His Majesty the King in an unusual move that included a demonstration by army specialists of sophisticated radio equipment which the army plans to buy and present to His Majesty.

The equipment, known as SSB (single-side band) is capable of eaves dropping on and jamming confidential police and military radio communications through especially high frequencies. The same kind of equipment had earlier been presented by Premier Chatchai Chunhawan with His Majesty as a part of the controversial mobile transmission unit belonging to the Mass Communications Authority of Thailand.

Speaking with reporters before boarding his flight for Nong Khai, army chief General Suchinda Khraprayun said that His Majesty had complained that the SSB which he had been given by the government had failed to work effectively in communications from Nong Khai to Bangkok.

Suchinda was accompanied by his deputy Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi his chief-of-staff Gen Wirot Saengsanit, his two assistants Gen Arun Pariwattham and Gen Wimon Wongwanit and First Army Region Commander Lieutenant General San Siphen.

"It appears unusual because normally they will leave one of the top five in Bangkok to control the situation," said one army source who asked not to be named.

Another saw the full-force showup by the top five as a show of solidarity in the top army leadership in light of a "cold war" with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The move also preceded Prime Minister Chatchai's scheduled audience with His Majety at Phuphing Palance in Sakhon Nakhon today to present newly-appointed Cabinet members to be sworn in. The premier and his delegation are due to leave Bangkok on a special flight at about 10 am and visit local villagers after the royal ceremony. The team will be accompanied by TV crew from state- run Channel 9. [passage omitted]

Army sources, meanwhile, identified the author of a letter which Suchinda read at a meeting of his top officers on Monday as former interior minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot. Sitthi, who was Suchinda's mentor, reportedly voiced disappointment with "a few retired generals in the coalition government" who defended Chatchai's decision to retain Chaloem.

He said he had lost his confidence in these generals.

The author of the letter also urged the military officers to get united and advised the top leaders to send representatives to breakfasts with the premier every Wednesday instead of boycotting it altogether.

Sunthon Says Monarchy Above All Conflicts

BK2911152790 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong addressed military officers at the banquet held at the Military Club of the 1st Royal Guards Division this evening following the rehearsal of the trooping of colors of the Royal Guards Division today. Gen. Sunthon said that high ranking commanders of all military units always hold regular meetings to discuss national problems. They are confident that soldiers of all military units are ready to sacrifice their lives to protect the monarchy and that there would never be disunity among soldiers. He said that efforts by the soldiers to solve national problems would never involve the monarchy. He stressed to all military officers that they must not get the monarchy involved in any efforts to solve problems.

[Begin Sunthon recording in progress] ... to cooperate in solving national problems without involving his majesty. We never try to get the monarchical institution involved in domestic or international politics. The monarchy is above all conflicts. I beg to all units of the Royal Guards Division to have confidence in your commanders. And please do not get the monarchy involved in our efforts to solve problems. I hope that you understand this. We are the royal guards, and our duty is to protect the monarchy with our life. [end recording]

Two Coalition Parties Call for New Reshuffle

BK2911002790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan is again under pressure from coalition partners to overhaul his administration because they say the political situation should not be left unresolved.

Senior members of the Ratsadon and Democrat parties agree developments and conflict with the Army should be resolved swiftly, political sources said yesterday.

"The latest reshuffle made the situation worse and government credibility is in question by the public," one Cabinet minister said. He suggested the Prime Minister make a major decision to break the political impasse by overhauling the Government.

A Democrat Party source said several party ministers, including Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Suphattra Matsadit and Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Khachonprasat, agreed that to break the impasse the Prime Minister should resign to regain public trust.

Sources also quoted Ratsadon Party leader Thianchai Sirisamphan as saying he is unhappy with the latest reshuffle because it did not salvage public trust and confidence in the Government.

General Thianchai is also reportedly unhappy with the atmosphere in which the Army has publicly voiced its opposition to the Government. Sources said he did not expect the Government to last long because the conflict with the Army will shorten its life.

In other developments, a group of Chat Thai MPs led by Nakhon Si Thammarat MP Han Linanon also voiced concern to the Prime Minister about the situation, warning it should be tackled immediately. Sources said Gen Han, who has close connections with Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, is very worried about conflict between the Government and the Army.

"The way the Government resolved the problem helped make the situation explosive. The public has turned its back on the Government. The latest reshuffle does not help improve the situation and we hope our proposal might be considered by the Prime Minister to break the impasse," one source said.

"The more the Government tries to solve its problem, the more isolated it becomes," the source said.

Sources said the mistake during the latest reshuffle was the Prime Minister's failure to take into account public opinion against some corrupt ministers whose removal was called for by the public.

However, one source close to the Prime Minister's advisers defended Gen Chatchai's decision arguing that if Police Captain Chaloem Yubamrung was removed from the post it would given the wrong signal to the public that the Government has yielded to army pressure.

Dailies Discuss Chatchai-Military 'Rift'

BK2911104990

[Editorial Report] Two Thai-language dailies THAI RAT and MATICHON on 28 November carry an editorial, an article, and a column commenting on problems the Government is facing under the leadership of Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan.

The 500-word THAI RAT editorial on page 3 entitled: "A Lack of Faith," notes that following the recent cabinet reshuffle by Chatchai, there has been wide criticism that the reshuffle has not settled but increased the conflict between the government and the military, and, most importantly, has caused a lack of public faith in the prime minister.

Although disagreeing with military or certain groups of people pressuring the prime minister to reshuffle the cabinet the way they want, academics and enthusiasts in political developments are of the same opinion that the prime minister must keep his word or any promise once made to the public. Otherwise, he should have not promised anything at all.

The editorial points out that a democratic government will be able to survive only with public support and faith. "What a democratic government should avoid is lack of faith from the public."

The paper concludes that if an extraordinary parliamentary session is convened, the government should give members of parliament an opportunity to discuss various problems freely and widely in order to find ways to solve them, such as the problems of vote-buying and corruption.

The MATICHON's 2,000-word article on page 9 by Thawip Woradilok entitled: "The Survival of Democratic Government," points out that vote-buying in the general elections was the root of the problem of "a crisis of confidence" the government is facing, because vote-buying led to corruption.

"The positive image of being a democratic government has been replaced by an image of a corrupt government, which is a negative image. At the same time it has created a negative image of democracy in Thailand," the article says.

Having not solved the problem of corruption seriously, the government has therefore faced various kinds of problems including a "dignity crisis"— conflict of dignity between the government and the military. The military tried to pressure Chatchai to oust the former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Chaloem Yubamrung from the cabinet, but Chatchai failed to settle the problem.

Chatchai was stormed by controversies and crises. This finally developed into a crisis of confidence which affected not only the Chatchai government, but the entire democratic system as well.

It notes that because the Thai people have become more accustomed to a military-controlled ruling system in the past than the up-and-down democratic system, the old system might come back.

"It has become obvious that Chatchai has not seriously tried to get to the root of problems and solve them. He only managed to get through problems on a day-by-day basis. With this kind of practice, how can our democracy survive?" concludes the article.

The 1,200-word column by pseudonym "Matchimaphum" on page 8 of the same paper entitled: "Chatchai

3 Government's Path toward Dimension of Darkness," notes that, since Thailand became a democracy in 1932, the relationship between the government and the military has never been as bad as it is now.

It says that in developing countries, the military role is still important for the administration of the country. In Thailand, the government still needs support from the military. The worsening rift between the Government and the military adversely affects the national administration and the people's well-being.

When the government is in the "dimension of darkness" and has to always be aware of what may happen to it, how can it find time to administer the country, oversee public well-being, and solve problems of the people, concludes the column.

Officials Ordered To Prepare for Elections

BK2911004590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 90 p A1

[Text] Interior Ministry officials have received instructions to prepare for a possible snap general election as Chat Thai MPs met yesterday to discuss poll strategies, touching off wild speculation that the government might dissolve the House to overcome the current political crisis.

Highly-placed sources said that Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun issued the internal order last week to officials of the Local Administration Department, including provincial governors and district officers nationwide to be on alert for a possible general election.

It was not clear whether Anan had acted on the instruction of Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha or Prime Minister [PM] Chatchai Chunhawan. One source who also received the alert said that he believed that a general election would be forthcoming.

"I feel that it's extremely difficult for the government to go on like this and that a political change could occur any time after the King's Birthday on Dec 5," said the source who asked not to be identified.

In a related development, Banhan last night hosted a dinner for about 40 Chat Thai Party MPs for political consultations before the party meeting on Nov 30. Key party members were present at the meeting.

Phuket MP Rewut Chindaphon told reporters the Chat Thai lawmakers "discussed the current political situation and assessed the party's popularity across the country in case there is a House dissolution."

A group of Chat Thai MPs yesterday said the premier should call an extraordinary session of the House to allow for a debate on national issues. Analysts see the proposal as a move to give Chatchai a chance to end the political deadlock by dissolving the House.

Rumours also went around yesterday that seven Chat Thai Cabinet members, including Deputy Premier Pramuan Saphawasu, PM's Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi, PM's Office Minister Bun-ua Prasoetsuwan and Industry Minister Praman Adireksan resigned yesterday to force Chatchai to break the political stalemate.

Chat Thai MPs who met at Banhan's residence yesterday came out to deny the rumours.

Chira Mangkhalarangsi, a Ratburi MP and secretary to Deputy Interior Minister Sano Thianthong, strongly denied the speculation. "Who would dare resign? No, absolutely not," he said.

The political crisis has escalated since Prime Minister Chatchai angered the military by deciding to retain its arch-enemy, minister Chaloem Yunbamrung, in the Cabinet.

Army Radio Discusses Winning Public Confidence

BK2811150390 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 26 Nov 90

["Sayamanusati" feature]

[Text] Listeners, those who follow the democratic development of Thailand will notice that at present democracy has developed one step further, that is, the prime minister is an elected member of parliament and most Cabinet ministers are members of parliament. Also, the prime minister is broadminded, allowing people, particularly the press, to express their opinions and fully participate in democratic development.

As part of the mass media, the Sayamanusati Feature is determined to have our democracy developed along the right direction, which is why it takes part in expressing its opinions regularly. This morning it will give an opinion on democratic development by presenting an article: Democracy Must Not Run in the Opposite Direction From the People's Confidence.

It has been accepted in principle that people must be complete masters of sovereign power in the democratic administrative system so that they can govern themselves. But because of the size of the population, it is necessary to elect people's representatives, or members of Parliament to perform on their behalf. An example of this is the recent election in Bangkok constituency 2. The outcome shows that most of the people in that constituency voted for the Phalang Tham Party candidate, Dr. Suthep Atthakon, to be their representative.

The MP's who have been elected by the people to perform duties on their behalf must do everything for the happiness and benefit of the people and must not do anything that will make people feel that the MP's are carrying out duties to amass benefits for themselves or their colleagues. If the MP's do this, they will lose the confidence of the people and make people disappointed with the democratic administrative system. If this disappointment occurs frequently, people will feel that the democratic system is inferior to any form of dictatorship. This will be the end of the democratic administrative system, and this can be seen in many underdeveloped or developing countries.

For this reason, we can say specifically that in the democratic adminstrative system, actions that cause the people to lose their confidence or contradict public opinion must be avoided. That is, the action must create confidence in the people or correspond with what the people want.

At present, MP's or non MP's have claimed that the purpose of their actions is to benefit the people and the country, not themselves or their colleagues. If someone were to criticize their actions, they would challenge them to take the matter to court, a challenge which is impossible for the people to accept. Therefore, the proof of whether actions are for the benefit of the country and the people can only come from the level of the people's confidence. That is, if the action truly benefits the country and the people, it is certain that the people will give their confidence. On the other hand, if the people feel that the actions benefit the perpetrators and their colleagues, then they will lose confidence. There is no way the perpetrators can make any excuse. It would be wrong to think that the people are naive or are too slow to catch tricks. At present people are more knowledgeable about political and administrative issues, thanks to education provided by the mass media.

As we agree that the people are now more knowledgeable and the mass media has been educating them properly, the people's confidence is therefore acceptable as a basis for democratic development. That is, if an action wins the people's confidence, that action certainly develops democracy. On the contrary, an action that destroys the people's confidence and causes popular condemnation certainly sets back democracy.

Now comes the important question: How can we tell if the people have confidence? If this confidence cannot be assessed, people carrying out their actions might think that the public is happy with those actions. MP's or non-MP's should not use their own judgment to gauge the people's confidence. This is because men are selfish by nature. The best way is to look into our mirror, the mass media. Do not look upon the mass media as a distorting mirror. At present the mass media is better developed and provides a relatively accurate mirror of our images. There may be some distorted mirrors, but there are only a few of them. The important thing is that if our faces are warped or our action is crooked, the image from the mirror—the mass media—will show, causing some of us to be angry and blame the mirror or break it. This would not be right. You can be assured that the mass media at present serves as a relatively accurate mirror. For this reason, whatever image is cast by the mirror of the mass media, whether they be politicians or not, people will believe it to be the real image of the individual. Therefore, politicians or nonpoliticians should be careful and regularly look at their images in the mass media. If they find themselves reported frequently in the press in an undesirable manner, then they should hurry to improve their image. It would be wrong to think people do not have confidence in the press. They believe a great deal in what the papers say.

Why do people believe in what the press says? The answer is that once MP's get elected, they usually become involved in business and become removed from the people. There is a saying that people see their representatives only during election time. They do not know what their MP's do afterward, good or bad. Only when the mass media reports do people know. If the reports are positive it is good, but if they are negative it is necessary for the MP's to readjust their behavior or lose the people's confidence. Once people lose their confidence, MP's belonging to government parties may think people or the mass media could do nothing to them because their parties hold majority in parliament. If they think this way then they will truly be obstructing the development of democracy or even destroying democracy. This is because democracy does not run in the opposite direction from the people's confidence.

In the past, many MP's did not care about the people's confidence or public opinion. They took politics from a juristic point of view. That is, if their action cannot be prosecuted in a court of law then it is legitimate. An example is the large-scale vote buying that has gone on in every past election. While this vote buying was common knowledge, there was no evidence to substantiate a trial. Vote buying became regarded as legitimate because the vote buyers got elected to the honorable parliament which subsequently enabled them to do many legal or illegal things.

As these MP's did wrong things and became targets of reports in the mass media, there was no evidence to substantiate their actions. This led to frequent challenges to the effect that if their actions were wrong, they should be taken to court. This challenge arose perhaps because the people involved were more often lawyers than politicians. But such a challenge certainly does not suit the democratic political system, because legalistic and political measures are different. While the legalistic side goes by what the law says, participation in politics in the democratic system goes by confidence won from the people. In politics, rivals compete for the people's confidence, and a political offensive amounts to an ability to win the people's confidence. For this reason, MP's or non MP's, if your deep feeling is that you must help develop a complete democracy, then you should help create confidence within in the people to the greatest degree. This is necessary because it is the people's confidence that allows democracy to survive.

Government Urged To Overcome 'Shortcomings'

BK2911070190 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 27 Nov 90

["Sayamanusati" feature]

[Summary] Dear listeners, the Sayamanusati program last week presented an article by a person who used a pseudonym as a professional soldier. The article, published in the newspaper MATICHON, was entitled "The Dignity of Soldiers." He expressed his feelings on the profession of soldiers and why it is necessary for the soldiers to uphold their dignity. This week, a person who used his pseudonym as a professional civilian official wrote an article to express the views of civilian officials. It was published in the same newspaper and entitled "The Dignity of Government Officials." Now, let us listen to his views.

"Reading the letter from the professional soldier entitled 'The Dignity of Soldiers,' prompted me to raise my pen to express my opinions." Not only soldiers are government officials, but there are also a lot of other officials in the Thai Government system. We have to accept the fact that for a long time in the past our country was under the bureaucracy led by government permanent officials, including civilian officials, police, and military officials. When the democratic system develops, the status of the permanent officials are affected. Many persons who used to respect and listen to the officials are able to use the policital procedures to play a role over the officials. Finally, the persons who come from the general elections become the bosses of the government permanent officials. Persons like [Interior Minister] Banhan, [Communications Minister] Montri, [former Deputy Interior Minister] Santi, and some others have become ministers who command respect from government officials. This is still a new thing in Thailand. However, Thai society can not reject the fact that both political appointees, or ordinary people in the past, and government officials, or bosses of the people in the past, are all necesasary and are important to each other for the official system which aims to serve the country and people. It is the duty of both sides and the people to find the correct measures for cooperation between these two categories of officials. In recent days, the civilian officials have felt uneasy with political appointees. The conflicts between the soldiers and politicians can cause many positive and negative issues. However, the civilian officials would like to thank the soldiers who dare to stand up to question the relations between the political appointees and government permanent officials. "The opinions expressed by the professional soldier and the conflicts between political appointees and the military indicate that it is time for the political appointees and government officials to jointly find a correct answer for the their mutual relations, which have to serve the interests of the country and people."

Dear Listeners, this is the letter talking about the dignity of civilian officials by the person who used his pseudonym as a professional civilian official. I hope that his opinions will be conducive for the working system and ethics of the political appointees and government officials. All people, such as soldiers, civilians politicians, and people from all walks of life, have their own dignity. It depends on how each institution or person will realize his own dignity and on how to love his dignity as well as his abilities to protect the dignity of his institution. "However, we should not forget that when we consider our dignity, we should also take into account the dignity of other persons. If one only considers his own dignity or preserves his own interests, the other side concerned will feel upset. And, when the other side is ignored and treated unfairly, the dissatisfaction will intensify and can eventually lead to conflicts."

"Dear listeners, we should not think of only our own dignity while ignoring other persons' dignity. We should not be preoccupied solely with protecting our own interests while ignoring the general interests of the country." The various opinions by our compatriots—from soldiers or civilians—should be considered with reason and used as guidelines to solve the shortcomings as soon as possible before the damage and the loss of faith aggravate. When things get out of hand it will be too late to deal with. The persons and parties concerned will feel sorry and will not be pardoned by the people, the masters of the country.

Vietnam

Investment Committee Delegation Visits Paris

BK2811102390 Hanoi VNA in English 0800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 27—Minister Vo Dong Giang, head of a delegation of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment on a current visit to France, on November 22 called a press conference to start the "Vietnam Day of Information" which was jointly sponsored by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Paris and the Vietnamese Embassy in France in preparation for a seminar on investment in Vietnam scheduled for March next year.

Addressing the conference, which was attended by some 300 representatives of 125 companies, governmental and non-governmental organisations in France, Vo Dong Giang brought out the positive developments of Vietnam's open door economic policy and elaborated on the situation of foreign investments in Vietnam and prospects for further development.

Also on November 22, Vo Dong Giang held talks with E. Avice [name as received], minister delegate attached to the minister for external relations, on issue concerning bilateral relations.

On November 24, Vo Dong Giang met with representatives of Vietnamese business circles in France and Belgium.

Burma, PRC Urged To Join Mekong Committee

BK2911103190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On 27 November, in Bangkok, Dinh Gia Khanh, Vietnamese vice minister of water conservancy, called on Myanmar [Burma] and China to join the International Committee for Coordination of Mekong River Development Projects, according to Bangkok sources. The vice minister said: The two countries' participation is very necessary in enhancing the efficiency of research and development work on the Mekong River. Vietnam hopes that international efforts to bring the Cambodian warring factions together at the negotiating table will lead to the restoration of Cambodia's membership in the committee following a 15-year absence.

Memorandum Signed With Malaysian Trading Firm

BK2211024490 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] A Malaysian trading company, the Bukit Lada Group, and Saigon Petro, a trading company belonging to the Vietnamese Government, have signed a memorandum of understanding. Mr. Ahmad Mustafa Hassan, executive director of the Bukit Lada Group, signed the agreement for the company, while Saigon Petro was represented by its director, Mr. Nguyen Ky Lan. The ceremony took place in Ho Chi Minh City recently. The memorandum will (?lead to) closer trade relations between Malaysian and Vietnamese businessmen. According to a statement issued by the group today, the memorandum was signed following talks and visits to Vietnam and several meetings with senior government officials in the country.

Do Muoi Greets Palestine Solidarity Day

BK2811160390 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 28—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi has extended his warmest greetings on the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (November 29).

In his message, addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations; and Ms. Absa Claude Diallo, chairwoman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestine and president of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Do Muoi says:

"Over the past 40 years, the Palestinian people have conducted a staunch and persistent struggle to regain their sacred national rights, including the right to self-determination, the right to return to their homeland and to establish an independent and sovereign state, and have obtained important successes. The Palestinian people's uprising over the past three years and the declaration on the founding of the State of Palestine on November 15, 1988, have marked an important development of the Palestinian people's struggle for national liberation and demonstrated their indomitable will for independence, freedom, peace and justice.

"The people and government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam firmly support the Palestinian people's just struggle for their fundamental national rights. We energetically condemn Israel's recent acts of terrorism against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and hold that it is necessary to find an overall, lasting, fair and equitable solution for the Palestine issue through convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation on an equal footing of the PLO, the sole authentic representative of the Palestinian people.

"The people and Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam firmly believe that the Palestinian people, promoting their obtained successes and combining the national strength with the strong support of the peace- and justice-loving people and countries in the world, will certainly obtain final victory in their just struggle."

Romanian Ambassador Holds Press Conference

BK2811084790 Hanoi VNA in English 0745 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 28—Romanian Ambassador to Vietnam Dumitru Gheorghe held here yesterday a press conference on the celebration of the day of reunification of Romania (December 1).

It was attended by representative of the foreign ministry, the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations and Vietnamese and foreign mass media.

Addressing the press conference, the Romanian ambassador brought out his country's changes in various fields since December 1989.

Regarding to the Romania-Vietnam relations, he said Romania and Vietnam had long established friendship and cooperation which, he said, will be constantly consolidated and developed in the interests of the two peoples and peace and social progress among nations.

Vietso Petroleum Yields 8,500 Metric Tons Daily

BK2911025090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] From the VUNG TAU CON DAO newspaper, so far in the Bach Ho Oil Field, the Vietso Petroleum Corporation has put 50 oil wells into operation.

Since the beginning of November, the corporation has exploited about 8,500 tonnes of oil every day. The Tam Dao Oil Rig, which is the most productive one, every day puts out more than 4,000 tonnes. The No. 1 and No. 4 stationary rigs also have high productivity.

According to plan, until the middle of December 1990, the Vietso Petroleum Corporation will have reached five million tonnes of crude oil since it started the exploitation.

Army Paper Marks Soviet Revolution Anniversary

BK2811131590 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[Editorial from the 7 November issue of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Let's Carry Out Reform in Line With the Path Traced by the October Revolution"]

[Text] Seventy-three years ago, on 7 November 1917, the first proletarian revolution ended in complete victory in Russia, ushering in a new era in mankind's history. As time has elapsed, more light has been shed on the great stature and impact of the Soviet October Revolution, highlighting the glorious achievements by the world nations following that revolution.

For more than seven decades now, under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union [CPSU] founded and trained by great Lenin, the Soviet people and Armed Forces have scored glorious victories that have remained forever fresh in mankind's memory. The Soviet Union scored victory in the revolutionary civil war and foiled the 14 imperialist countries' attempt at using a blockade to crush the nascent Soviet state. Through Soviet heroism and priceless sacrifices, the Soviet Union has made a decisive contribution to the struggle to defeat facism and militarism, thus saving mankind from the danger posed by fascism and promoting the struggles for national salvation in a series of countries in Europe and Asia. Being the first to clear the path for socialism, the Soviet people have gone through numerous difficulties and challenges and have committed errors and shortcomings. Nonetheless, they have scored important achievements, turning the Soviet Union into the most powerful socialist country with a primarily important role to play in world political, military, and economic affairs.

The Soviet party, state, and people are now carrying out a profound and overall revolutionary reform to develop past achievements, overcome shortcomings, and seek ways to lead the Soviet society forward. The key objectives of the reform program are to renovate and perfect the politico-economic system, to implement democracy and openness, and to bring into full play the active role of people of all social strata in building a humane and socialist democratic society. The 28th CPSU Plenum adopted a principled statement and many other important resolutions outlining the contents of a reform program aimed at building a humane and socialist democratic society and at establishing a Soviet state that belongs to the people and is capable of bringing prosperity to the nation. The CPSU is taking bold steps to renovate and strengthen the party leadership, to systematize party policies, to build a legal state, to consolidate the Federation of Soviet Nationalities, and to resolve the burning socio-political and racial issues step by step. The economic reform program calls for efforts to reorganize production to meet the demands of the scientific and tenchnical revolution, to effect fundamental changes in the management mechanism in the direction of abolishing the management system based on administrative orders, to give more autonomy to business and production establishments and localities, to broaden external economic relations, and to shift to a market-oriented economy.

Following with keen interest all steps taken by the Soviet people, the Vietnamese people believe and hope that the great Soviet Union will overcome all difficulties and challenges; advance further; enhance its role and position as the world's first socialist state; make an important contribution to the struggle for peace, security, democracy, and progress; and preserve and further develop the immortal ideals of the October Revolution.

The militant solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union have survived the test of time and have continued to be consolidated and developed in the new historic situation. Our entire party, people, and armed forces will be grateful forever to the Soviet party, government, and people for the great and effective assistance and support they have given to our national liberation struggle in the past as well as to our task of building and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland at present. The numerous economic, cultural, scientific, and technical projects built with Soviet assistance throughout our country will remain forever as tokens of the candid and noble solidarity and friendship between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. We pledge our determination to further cultivate, expand, and consolidate the friendship and all-around cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and socialism.

Commemorating the 73d anniversary of the October Revolution, turning their minds toward the land of Lenin, the Vietnamese people and armed forces sincerely wish the Soviet people and armed forces ever greater achievements in their struggle to build a great, powerful, and prosperous Soviet fatherland, thereby making a worthy contribution to the revolutionary cause of the world people.

Journal Reviews National Economy Since 1945

BK2611145390 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Sep 90 pp 19-24

[Article by Economist Nguyen Quan: "Vietnam's Economy 45 Years After the Success of the Revolution"]

[Text] The 45 years of existence and development of socialist Vietnam were 45 years of staunch struggle of the entire nation to free the country from the yoke of colonialist rule, to build and firmly defend the Vietnamese fatherland. During those 45 years, our people overcame untold difficulties and hardships and scored achievements they can be proud of.

Before the August Revolution, more than 90 percent of our people lived in the countryside, but two-thirds of the arable area was owned by colonialists and feudalists. The chief aspiration of peasants at the time was to realize the land-to-the-tiller policy.

For this reason, between the August Revolution and 1953, the revolutionary administration promulgated the Land Reform Law. In the north, by 1958 land reform had been virtually completed. In the south, following the 1975 victory, landholding readjustments were carried out and exploitation by rich peasants and other bourgeois elements in the rural areas was abolished.

Socialist transformation of various economic sectors was also carried out immediately after the north was liberated. Besides the state-operated and collective economic sectors, in recent years our government has adopted policies aimed at encouraging the development of the individual and private economic sectors, and has shaped a multisectoral gross social product structure.

Breakdown of the gross social product structure

by economic sectors (percentage):

	1976	1980	1988
Total	100	100	100
State sector	39.7	30.9	31.1
Collective sector	22.2	26.3	45.7
Private, individual sectors	38.1	42.8	23.2

In each economic branch and product branch, however, the roles of economic sectors differed. If the state-operated and collective economic sectors accounted for more than four-fifths of the gross industrial output, the collective, private, and individual economic sectors were credited with more than nine-tenths of the gross agricultural output and were responsible for more than half of the trade activities. In such branches as energy, fuel exploitation, precision engineering, metallurgy, ocean-going shipbuilding, marine transportation, air transportation, railways, foreign trade..., the state-operated economic sector accounted for 90 to 100 percent of output value.

Since 1986, our national economy has developed along the line of multisectoral commodities production. For this reason, the gross social product structure has also changed, drawing the participation of an increasing number of other economic sectors (besides the state-operated and collective sectors).

Along with the incentives provided for the development of the multisectoral economy along the socialist line, attention has also been given to strengthening the material and technical bases one step further. This strengthening was based chiefly on state investments, with investments by the collective economic sector playing a secondary role. Since the sixth party congress up to this day, however, the state has encouraged the private and individual economic sectors and foreign economic organizations to invest in numerous areas of national economic activities (to date our government has signed with foreign countries nearly 120 economic investment projects worth more than U.S. $1 billion). Since 1980, investments in the national economy by the state alone has averaged more than 16 billion dong annually (at the 1982 price), with the material production sector remaining the main investment orientation.

Owing to the correct determination of the investment orientation and the timely overcoming of weaknesses in the investment structure (which was indiscriminate and inefficient), we have succeeded in creating a significant material base to serve as the premise for the comprehensive development of the economy in the 1990's.

Newly increased capacities generated by state investments

	1976-1980	1980-1985	1986-1989	1990
(targeted) —Power plant capacity (thousand kilowatts)	116.0	456.5	1,290.0	43.9
Hydropower plant alone	348.7	890.7	33.9	
—Power line (km)	2,198	3,054.7	1,520.5	
—Raw coal (thousand tonnes/year)	2,000	1,545	287.0	
—Chemical fertilizer (thousand tonnes/year)	69.2	2,75.7	4.7	
—Cement (thousand tonnes/year)	573.0	2,440.4	18.7	1,000
—Yarn (thousand tonnes/year)	16.3	33.1	4.6	
—Paper (thousand tonnes/year)	28.9	58.4	3.5	
—Irrigated area (thousand hectares)	608.3	309.8	310.7	40
—Drained area (thousand hectares)	244.6	186.3	167.0	14.0
—Reclaimed area (thousand hectares)	708.6	275.8	254.6	120.0
—Railroad (km)	259.0	128.5	35.6	
—Highway (km)	1,482.0	3,003.3	3,092.6	1,200
—Housing (thousand square meters)	6,250	2,384	764.6	105
—Hospital, dispensary (thousand beds)	17.5	20.9	11.5	
—General school (thousand pupils)	237.8	218.5		

If those projects carried out by the people alone and jointly by both the people and the state are also counted, our new capacity has increased substantially, especially in agriculture (the Grade-II and Grade-III irrigation system, the dike system, the areas of land reclaimed, afforested, or planted with perennial trees...), in road traffic (inter-village and inter-district roads), in housing construction, in public health, in general education, and so forth.

With those projects that have already been or will be put into operation such as the Tri An, Hoa Binh, and Dac Linh hydroelectric power projects, the Pha Lai thermoelectric power project, and others, we will certainly be able to meet electricity consumption demands for this decade. If the system of power lines is installed and protected more satisfactorily, electricity will soon be brought to various areas, especially those in the central provinces (electricity from Hoa Binh already channeled to Danang last August). With the presence of the Hoang Thach, Bim Son, and Ha Tien cement factories, our potential to meet construction demands is very great. With oil discoveries at various oil rigs off Vung Tau and with the ongoing oil exploration in other areas, our oil exploitation capability in the years to come will increase, thus meeting more satisfactorily requirements for domestic consumption and for foreign debt servicing. Along with road repair and upgrading, the opening of the Ben Thuy bridge (in Vinh) to traffic will open up great prospects for economic exchanges between areas in the country and meeting the people's traffic requirements.

Our country's huge potential is its abundance of labor. According to a sampling of the 1 April 1989 general population census, the country had a total of 41.2 million people aged 13 and above. In 1989, the number of people working in the national economic sector was broken down as follows: 70.9 percent in agriculture; 11.7 percent in industry; and 6.5 percent in trade. The number of people working in the state-run sector was 4,051,700. Labor in the state-run sector was substantially redundant. Both work efficiency and labor output were low. The state has advocated streamlining personnel staffing and rearranging work assignments. There was a cut of 392,000 personnel in 1988 as compared to that in 1987, with the largest cut found in the state management sector (down by 13,000 people). There was also a personnel cutdown in other sectors such as building and industry but the extent of the cut is much smaller. On the other hand, some sectors like the educational sector have not lowered staffing levels and have instead expanded their ranks.

The contingent of scientific and technical cadres continues to increase thanks to active training at home and abroad. According to a document provided by the Statistics General Department, as of 1 April 1989, our country had had 1,267,276 people graduated from vocational middle schools and 740,967 from colleges and higher eduation. The people's knowledge has improved. The number of people graduating from basic general education schools has accounted for nearly 30 percent of the population aged five and over.

As for basic and application studies in various important scientific-technical areas, we have attained certain achievements. We have, by our own means, surveyed, designed, and built many large construction projects and turned out many new, high-quality industrial products that meet international standards. Vietnamese bridge builders can feel proud of themselves when looking at structures in other countries in the region. Hydroelectric power project builders have acquired much experience in design and engineering. These scientific and technical talents are the valuable assets of our country. The question now is how to most effectively train and employ these talents.

In renovating the economic management mechanism, we have scored a striking achievement, that is, gradually discarding the system of subsidy-based bureaucratic centralism and shifting to a new system suitable to the growth of the multisectoral commodity-based economy. We have attained initial results in stabilizing production, prices, and people's lives. Particularly, we have been able to contain the inflation rate. The rate of retail price increases was down to 2.5 percent (as compared to 14.2 percent in 1988.)

In 1989, gross social output was 32,966 billion dong and national revenue was 15,995 billion dong. Our country's economic growth rate since 1978 has, though not stable, continued to rise.

The average annual increase rate in percentage (according to the rate established in 1982):

	Gross Social Product	National Revenue
—1976-80	1.4	0.4
—1981-85	7.3	6.4
—1986-89	4.6	3.5

Agriculture has continued to retain its decisive role in the country's total production achievements, (accounting for roughly 50 percent of national revenue) and this is followed by industry (around 23.4 percent) and trade (over 15 percent).

Despite this, the production rate in our country is still very low (1) (Footnote: According to our calculation, the per-capita income in 1989 was around 210 dollars, thus putting our country among the world's lowest-income earners. The country cannot ensure domestic consumption requirements. During the period 1986-89, domestic production could ensure only 91.7 percent of national revenue. In 1989, this figure was 92.5 percent.)

Agricultural production in 1989 increased by 1.63 times over 1976 and 3.84 times over 1939. Since 1980, the agricultural output value has increased constantly but unevenly. Crop cultivation continued to account for three-fourths of the agricultural output while animal husbandry could only make up less than one fourth. Grain crops constituted three-fourths of the crop cultivation area while domestic animals accounted for as much as 60 percent of the total figure of livestock breeding.

The year 1989 was the first year that grain production volume (in terms of paddy) exceeded the mark of 20 million metric tons (totalling 21,439,700 metric tons), with paddy alone amounting to 18.9 million metric tons and representing a 3.25-fold increase over that in 1940.

The average annual per-capita grain output was 330 kg and the annual paddy output was 32.2 metric tons per hectare (as compared to 12.4 metric tons per hectare in 1940). The production volume of perennial industrial crops (rubber, coffee, and tea) continued to rise with the 1989 production volumes of tea reaching 322,000 metric tons, of coffee attaining 405,000 metric tons, and of rubber amounting to 509,000 metric tons. The annual industrial crop output was unstable. The levels obtained in the years 1988-89 were lower than those in preceding years. The year 1989 was also the year that domestic animals and poultry raising attained the highest per-capita target since 1976 with water buffaloes attaining 2,871,300 head (representing a 2.1-fold increase over 1945), cows attaining 3,189,700 head (representing 3.19-fold increase over 1945), pigs attaining 12.2 million head (representing 3.37-fold increase over 1945), and poultry attaining 103.7 million head.

Generally speaking, agricultural production resulted in important results and thereby contributed to stabilizing the people's lives and ensuring raw materials for industrial production and farm produce for export. Worthy of note is that instead of having to rely on grain imports as was the case before, our country was able to export 1.45 million metric tons of rice in 1989.

Industrially, the 1989 industrial output value increased nearly two times over 1980, two times over 1976, and 15.5 times over 1939. Despite the fact that agricultural production in 1989 faced numerous difficulties and that its output was not as high as that in 1988 (both of Group-A and Group-B and both in the state- and collectively-run sectors and individually operated sector), the industrial output attained the highest level ever with electricity attaining over eight billion kw/hr (representing a 3.3-fold increase over 1975 or a 84.3-fold increase over 1940), steel attaining 75,000 metric tons (representing a 2.1-fold increase over 1975), cement attaining 1,975,000 metric tons (representing a 3.6-fold increase over 1975 or a 7.1-fold increase over 1940), sugar attaining 377,000 metric tons (representing a 8.2-fold increase over 1975); and sea fish attaining 636,000 metric tons (representing a 1.16-fold increase over 1975 or a 5.3-fold increase over 1940). Many new, high-quality industrial products of the mechanical, electronics, and chemical sectors have been turned out in recent years. As compared to 1989, the 1990 industrial, small-industry, and handicraft output increase varies between 6-8 percent with the output of consumer goods increasing between 8-10 percent. Now there are growing prospects for broadening the market both at home and abroad.

In the area of communications and transportation, the 1989 volume of passenger and cargo transportation (mainly by rail, road, and river) reached 12,754,900 million metric tons/km with passenger transportion attaining 11,640,000 person/km. In particular, the 1989 sea transportation attained 8,533,500 metric tons/km and represented a 1.38-fold increase over 1980, a 5-fold increase over 1975, or a 104-fold increase over 1940.

The total volume of social goods on retail sales in 1989 reached 13,401,300 billion dong. Nongovernmental sectors continued to retain a high profile: 58.4 percent, with public food catering accounting for 83 percent of the total nongovernmental support service. The retail sale index increased rapidly until 1989 when it dropped sharply.

Retail Sale Index (of preceding year = 100 percent)

—1985	191.6%
—1986	587.2%
—1987	416.7%
—1988	410.9%
—1989	176.0%

The export program, which has been asserted as one of the three major economic programs, scored remarkable successes. This was due partly to an increase in domestic production. The main reason for this was that we have organized much better export-oriented production and export-related work. It is thanks to this that the increased rate of export was many times greater than that of production.

Average annual growth rate (percentage)

	Gross social product	Total export value
1976-1980	1.4	11.0
1980-1985	7.3	15.6
1986-1989	4.6	27.0

We still remember that, five years after national reunification, the annual export value was still below 300 million rubles-dollars, and we wished we could one day surpass the one-billion mark. In 1988, total export value exceeded one billion and in 1989 it amounted to 1.8 billion rubles-dollars (with nearly one billion dollars). In 1990, exports are expected to surpass two billion rubles-dollars. Besides some traditional export items, we had striven to increase the export of coal to 643,000 metric tons in 1989 (compared to the average export volume of 291,000 metric tons in 1987-1988). Along with a new export item (crude oil), the export of heavy industrial and mineral products totalled 350 million rubles-dollars in 1989 (a six-fold increase over 1988 and eight-fold increase over 1987). Especially, in 1989 725 million rubles-dollars worth of agricultural products were exported, exceeding the total export value of the entire country from 1985 back.

Although an export-import imbalance still exists, the level of import deficits has noticeably decreased, owing mainly to export promotion and partly to import reduction (chiefly reduction in the import of finished equipment and consumer goods). In 1989, import deficits totalled only 623.7 million rubles-dollars (equal to 36 percent of the 1988 import deficits). Worth noting is that in 1989, for the first time our country exported 976 million dollars worth of goods to nonsocialist states, exceeding the value of products it imported from these countries (that is, we enjoyed an export surplus).

The people's living standards in terms of diet, housing, clothing, and transportation have evidently improved compared to the 1940's. In recent years (especially in 1986-1988), the people faced numerous difficulties in their daily life. Since 1989, life has become less difficult, and the living conditions of a section of the population has improved. Bicycles, motorcycles, sewing machines, radio receivers, and television sets have become common household items. The "tile-roofed house construction" movement has developed ever more widely in the rural areas. In 1988-1989, school enrollment totalled 12.8 million, including 12.2 million general school students, 138,600 vocational middle school students, and 128,000 college students. Compared to the 1939-1940 period, when enrollment totaled 556,900 (including 554,000 general school students, 2,300 vocational middle school students, and nearly 600 college students), the 1988-1989 figures represent extraordinary progress. The public health service has striven to stabilize the numbers of hospital beds, physicians, doctor's asistants, nurses, and other personnel. In 1989, we had 223,500 hospital beds and 21,500 physicians (as compared to 141,600 hospital beds and 8,400 physicians in 1975). In 1940, there was only an average of 0.3 physicians and doctor's assistants and 6.6 hospital beds for 10,000 people. In 1989, the figures were 10.5 physicians and doctor's assistants and 34.6 hospital beds.

Our country's population, calculated up to 1 April 1989, was 64.4 million (as compared to only 19.6 million in 1939). In the 50 years between 1939 and 1989, millions laid down their lives for the cause of national liberation and reunification, and millions of others left the country for numerous reasons.... We should pay attention to this point to see that our population has increased too quickly. This has inevitably slowed the production growth rate and hindered the efforts to improve the people's living standards. After many years of promoting family planning, we are still unable to obtain the desired results. At present, although the natural population growth rate has decreased, it still remains at 2.2-2.4 percent per year.

Of the mistakes and shortcomings our party and state have committed, those relating to the elaboration of economic lines and to the policies and measures of implementation have been the principal ones. Yet, looking back at the past 45 years, we can reaffirm that the results we have already obtained in our national economy have been great, and we can take pride in them. These are the foundations for the changes that are taking place in our country along the renovation line charted by the sixth party congress and the subsequent plenums of the party Central Committee.

Taxes Linked With Business Profitability

BK2911143990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Station Correspondent Quang Huong's article: "Tax Collection Situation During the Past 10 Months"]

[Summary] "As of October, tax offices throughout the country had collected almost 86 percent of this year's collection plan norm. Collection from state-run enterprises accounted for more than 83 percent of the set plan norm; nonstate enterprises, 80 percent; and export-import goods sector, 99.5 percent."

Generally speaking, tax collection from state-run enterprises was carried out satisfacforily in the fourth quarter. In October alone, the collection increased by 2.4 percent as compared with September. This was due to the successful operation of various production and business establishments, especially those of the electric, cement, and paper production sectors.

Some units of the processing, food industry, and communications and transportation sectors, however, have faced difficulties due to the increase in prices of fuel, thus causing an adverse effect to their operation and their efforts to fulfill the tax obligation.

"Implementing the Council of Ministers decisions and the newly promulgated law on taxation, many ministries and agencies have coordinated with the financial and banking sectors in examining activities of various production and business establishments to make a proposal for dissolving units operating at a loss. This is a correct action in conformity with the current situation in which the state subsidies system is being eliminated." As a result, only production and business units that can adapt themselves to comply with the new mechanism, gain profit in their business, and fulfill their tax obligation will survive and be able to develop further.

Regarding the collection of industrial and trade taxes, the past 10 months saw a decline in collection from nonstate economic establishments. This was due to the fact that many provinces and cities were busy reorganizing their mechanism, training cadres, and familiarizing themselves with the new tax law, thus affecting their inspection and collection work.

"The failure in collection of tax debts in many provinces was noteworthy while tax offices took no decisive actions to resolve this issue. Ho Chi Minh City, for instance, failed to collect more than 10 billion dong in tax debts from private traders; Dong Nai Province, one billion dong; and Kien Giang Province, 800 million dong."

Concerning agricultural tax, a satisfactory collection was made during the past 10 months. There were, however, some shortcomings in the collection of tax levied on the increased price of rice and on activities of some state farms.

To attain ever greater achievements, specialized tax collection teams have been established recently to improve tax collection in localities. "According to a preliminary report, during the past one month and more, these teams have collected more than 100 billion dong in taxes levied on various kinds of trade and on export-import activities of state-run and nonstate establishments." These teams also strived to monitor and deal with many tax evasion cases.

To satisfactorily fulfill the 1990 tax collection plan, the state general department of taxation has assigned many inspection teams to various localities to speed up tax collection, review work of various tax offices, and resolve problems pertaining to taxation during the last few months of the year.

Vo Chi Cong Promulgates Consular Regulation

BK2811142590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] On 24 November, Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, signed an order promulgating the consular regulation adopted by the Council of State on 13 November, a Voice of Vietnam correspondent reported. This morning, in Hanoi, the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a news conference to introduce the regulation.

Vietnam now has diplomatic and consular relations with 117 countries, has set up more than 50 overseas diplomatic representation and consular offices, and has signed 12 consular agreements with foreign countries. At present, nearly two million Vietnamese live in almost every country in the world, and more than 300,000 others work and study abroad. To date, our state has not promulgated any legal document to regulate our overseas consular organizations and activities. Today, along with broadly developing its multifaceted foreign relations, Vietnam has constantly increased its intercourse with other countries, and this has created many new, complicated problems.

The settlement of consular questions requires promulgation of legal documents by our state to serve as a basis in addition to the reliance on international customs and practices. To uniformly readjust our country's consular organizations and activities in foreign countries, it is necessary to issue a government document of high legal value capable of regulating all consular operations at the present stage.

The consular regulation adopted by the Council of State on 13 November comprises six chapters and 45 articles. Its contents, based on the legal documents currently in force in our country and on various international agreements signed by Vietnam, conforms to international customs in consular affairs and to the practices of our consular service.

Joint UN Workshop on Economic Management Held

BK2411154890 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—A workshop on the deployment of the project "Strengthening Economic Management" codenamed VIE/88/543 was held here on Nov. 20-23 under the joint sponsorship of the office of the Council of Ministers and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The project receives a fund of 1,695,000 USD from UNDP and will be jointly executed in two years by the external relations board of the Council of Ministers and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank. The project is chiefly aimed at training economic managers for Vietnam with basic knowledge of the market-based economy, national financial and monetary policies, the integration of macro-economic policies and economic legislation.

It envisages the opening of training courses and seminars in Vietnam and the sending of Vietnamese economic managers for survey and study tours abroad.

At the closing session on Nov. 22, the first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Vo Van Kiet, warmly thanked UNDP, EDI and other international organizations and foreign countries for their help.

David Smith, UNDP resident representative Bob Li, EDI representative, and the ambassadors of France, Australia, Italy, the Soviet Union, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland and Sweden also attended the closing ceremony.

Seminars on Rehabilitation, Immunology Held

BK2711084790 Hanoi VNA in English 0723 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 27—A seminar on rehabilitation for the disabled was held here yesterday by the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs with assistance from the International Labour Orgaization (ILO) and the Australian Embassy in Hanoi.

According to official statistics disclosed at the seminar, the disabled account for 13 percent of Vietnam's population of nearly 65 million, as a result of war, accidents and congenital deformities. In recent years, with international assistance, some 110,000 prosthetics and other orthopaedic instruments and more than 6,000 wheelchairs have been made for their benefit. Rehabilitation is made part of the healthcare programmes of 35 among 40 provinces and cities of Vietnam. Community-based rehabilitation is being carried out in more and more provinces.

—An international workshop on immunology and infection was held in Hanoi recently under the joint auspices of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

It was attended by 80 researchers and representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), The Netherlands, Australia, The United Kingdom, France, The Philippines, Laos, Thailand, Switzerland, Indonesia, the Ministry of Public Health and various health institutions in Vietnam. Some 40 scientific reports were presented at the workshop.

Premier To Convene Conference on Cities 3-4 Dec

BK2511104590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently decided to convene the first national conference on cities. Work in preparation for the conference will be jointly carried out by the Ministry of Building, the State Planning Commission, the Organization Committee, the Finance Ministry, and other government agencies.

The first national conference on cities includes four objectives:

1. Achieve unanimity of concepts of various sectors and echelons and the entire people concerning the important role of all cities in the country's process of renovation so that they can define their responsibilities in the building and development of cities.

2. Seek a thorough understanding of the main substance, that is, the delegation of responsibilities among various sectors and echelons in work related to city management and, on that basis, effect a strategy for the development of cities and adopt practical measures for the plan to build up cities in the next five years.

3. Discuss measures to improve or modify the systems of planning and managing the development of cities.

4. Effect measures to tap all sources of capital both at home and abroad for investing in the development of cities.

The national conference on cities will be held in Hanoi on 3 and 4 December this year.

Meeting Held in Response to Anti-AIDS Day

BK2811102590 Hanoi VNA in English 0756 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 28—A meeting was held here yesterday by the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and the National Committee to prevent and combat AIDS in respond to the World's Anti-AIDS Day.

Dr. J. Aagesen, an expert of the World Health Organization in Vietnam, was present.

Addressing the meeting Ho Duc Viet, secretary of the union Central Committee, brought out the union's plan for activities against AIDS in 1991, particularly in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong and other urban centres.

Australia

Bureau Says Economy in 'Technical Recession'

BK2911023690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0218 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Sydney, Nov 29 (AFP)—The Australian economy shrank 1.6 per cent in the September quarter, its second consecutive recording of negative growth—a so-called technical recession, the Bureau of Statistics said Thursday.

The surge in imports of 8.4 per cent in the three months to September 30 helped caused real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to fall by more than the most pessimistic markets expectations of about 1 per cent.

This followed a 0.4 per cent fall in the June quarter, revised from a 0.9 per cent fall, the bureau said.

Economists define a recession as two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth.

"Major features of the expenditure aggregates this quarter include weak private final expenditures, strong public final expenditure, a large rundown in private non-farm stocks, flat exports and a rebound in imports," the bureau said.

Private consumption grew only 0.3 per cent while government consumption jumped 3.2 per cent in the quarter. Exports rose only 0.6 per cent over the three months.

Phil O'Sullivan, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Australia, said: "The rise in imports must be of continuing concern to the government. It's inexplicable."

Canberra has pursued since last year a tight monetary policy designed to correct Australia's perrenial current account imbalance. Interest rates have been eased five times this year following evidence that economic growth was slowing.

Jeff Schubert, economist at Hongkongbank [as received], said: "The rise in imports means that the current account remains a worry and it's not going to go away." The government would be afraid to cut interest rates to stimulate private demand for fear of worsening the trade imbalance, he said.

"There is no doubt we are in recession. Economic conditions are not going to improve quickly," Mr. Schubert said.

The Australian dollar slid to 76.50 U.S. cents from 76.80 U.S. cents just before the data was released, but bounced back to 76.75 U.S. cents half an hour after the GDP figure was released on expectation that Canberra would ease monetary policy. It closed at 77.00 U.S. cents on Wednesday.

Papua New Guinea

Date Set for Talks With Bougainville Rebels

BK2911065290 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Papua New Guinea Government has set a tentative date for another round of talks with the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. No venue for the talks has been selected but the projected date is 18 December.

Papua New Guinea's foreign affairs minister and leader of the government delegation, Sir Michael Somare, said his personal preference for the venue is (Arugo) Island just outside Bougainville's Kieta Harbor.

Up to now, the Bougainville delegation and the North Solomons provincial premier, Mr. Joseph Kabui, have been insisting that government troops be withdrawn from Buka Island just north of the Bougainville Island before any talks are held. But, Sir Michael says this is not possible. However he said he is hopeful that Mr. Kabui will respond positively to the talks proposal.

Talks To Free Irianese Hostages Continue

BK2211020090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1743 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Port Moresby, Nov 21 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea (PNG) officials were attempting Wednesday to negotiate the release of five foreigners and one border guard taken hostage by Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM or Free Papua Movement) rebels.

The rebels were believed to be camped in thick jungle in PNG territory about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the northern tip of the 750-km (465-mile) border between Papua New Guinea and the disputed Indonesian Province of Irian Jaya. They are demanding recognition of their struggle for independence from Indonesia.

Local and federal officials, accompanied by defence force personnel, had contacted the rebels and were attempting to negotiate their release, officials said.

The government's National Executive Council was meeting late Wednesday to discuss the border hostage crisis and a major report on law and order problems in the country.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has refused the rebels' demands, saying Port Moresby regarded Irian Jaya as an integral part of Indonesia.

The rebels have said they are prepared to discuss their demands with Attorney-General Bernard Narokobi and Provincial Affairs Minister John Momis. However, Mr. Narokobi was due to fly out of the country Wednesday and Father Momis was not due back in Port Moresby until the weekend, his office said.

The rebels are about two hours' walk from the border post of Amanab which they raided late Sunday night, kidnapping the officer in charge, Karl Gumari, and five foreigners, officials said.

Two are missionaries, New Zealander John Short and American Steven Schaeffer, who belong to the Christian Missions in Many Places group. Three others are Philippine construction workers Barry Cirlo, Oscar Tirones and Armando Heraldo.